

## **Discussion Questions Deacon King Kong**

1. Were you engaged with this story from the beginning or was it more of a slow burn read?
2. In the beginning, there's an emphasis on bad luck following Sportcoat wherever he goes. Do you think this is true or was it all self-inflicted?
3. What did you think about the title and Sportcoat's reaction when he found out his name was "Deacon King Kong?"
4. The book explores the lives of the residents of the Cause Houses beyond just Sportcoat. Which character struck you as one you'd like to know more about? What behavior or trait drew you to him/her?
5. Sportcoat is often viewed as a dead man but he gets saved again and again. Do you think there was a bigger message there?
6. Five Ends Baptist Church is one of the cornerstones of the neighborhood. How important do you think the church is to its members? To the neighborhood? To the characters in the novel who don't belong?
7. Why do you think the author decided to set the book in 1969?
8. Deacon King Kong is the story of several communities whose lives overlap and sometimes bump against each other: the people who live in the Cause Houses, the members of Five Ends Baptist Church, the drug dealer and his posse, the cops in the neighborhood, the Italians who remain as the neighborhood changes. What did you find interesting about how the communities relate to each other?
9. The novel is full of memorable names. What is your favorite?
10. What did you think of the ending overall? Did it feel like closure or did you want more from it?

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