



# *NAIL IT: Breaking into the Black Elite*

## *Discussion Questions and Topics*

1. Pedigree or Money? What defines the upper echelon of society in the book? Is it the same in real life?
2. Meranda says throughout the story, "Everything has a cost." What is the cost associated with the characters' social climbing?
3. Many of the characters lead double lives in that their public image is different from their private lives. Can you identify some? Which characters are the most skillful at navigating the divide?
4. Members of these social organizations often straddle two worlds—one black and one white. What are some of the class issues and racial struggles examined in the novel?
5. During the Darlings' fashion show, Meranda wonders if this circle and the organizations have become complacent when it comes to fighting social injustice. What role do you think these types of organizations play in fighting racial injustice in real life?
6. If circumstances were different, do you think that Sahara and Emery would be friends? Why or why not?
7. From the very beginning, Noah feels that they should be in the elite social circle and quickly finds his place. On the other hand, Sahara feels out of place. Why is Noah confident, while Sahara has doubts? Do you think it is harder for women to establish themselves and make friends in this type of social environment? Why or why not?
8. Discuss the acronym NAIL IT. Do you agree that following it will allow someone entry into certain social circles?
9. What do you think about Landy Cummings? Were her motives for extending an invitation to Sahara sincere?
10. Why do you think that Zora does not go to any of the black elite events?
11. What do you think motivates Rozlyn?
12. Is the New South really new?
13. In the novel, is the black elite of yesteryear the same as it is today?
14. What character arc do we see in Noah in the novel? Does Sahara follow a similar path?
15. Were you satisfied with the book's ending? What do you think the future holds for Sahara and Noah?