

Questions for Discussion

THE NEW NATURALS

GABRIEL BUMP

- How have you overcome grief in your personal life?
- If your significant other asked you to join them in an underground society, would you go? How would you make your decision? What is the most you've done for love?
- What is it about Rascal that is so disappointing for Sojourner? Have you ever been in a dead-end relationship like this, and if so, how did you get out of it? What made you leave?
- How do you feel about Sojourner's choice to leave her job? How might things have gone if she had stayed?
- If you had unlimited resources, how would your underground utopia look? How would your idea differ from Rio's?
- If Bounce was your brother, how long would you let him live with you? Or, would you let him live with you at all?
- What do you think is wrong with Bounce?
- What would you think of Elting and Buchanan if you saw them walking down the street? In what ways does Bump's portrayal of them upend your expectations?
- Do you have a friend like Elting or Buchanan, a friend you could spend every day alongside? What makes for a bond like that—is it shared experience or empathy, or is it something else?
- How are Bounce and Sojourner different from Rio and Gibraltar?
- Have you ever been stranded on the highway? How did you get to your destination?
- If you could change only one injustice in the world, which injustice would you change?
- Elting and Buchanan, surprisingly, find lasting happiness in Cleveland, Ohio. Where is your personal Cleveland, Ohio?
- How have you responded to a dream deferred?
- Are ideas like *The New Naturals* forever doomed to fail? Why?