

# BOOK CLUB in a bag



## Crazy Rich Asians

Kevin Kwan

### Discussion Questions

1. Compare how Nick's mother and Rachel's mother react to hearing about their trip to Singapore. What do their reactions reveal about each of them as mothers? What qualities, if any, do they share? What is the significance of the "Chinese Way" in the mothers' approach to courtship and marriage? Compare this with Rachel and Sophie's conversation about marriage later in the book.
2. Does Nick's description—"It's like any big family. I have loudmouthed uncles, eccentric aunts, obnoxious cousins, the whole nine yards" - match the way most of us view our own families? Why doesn't he tell Rachel more about the background and status of his family before their trip?
3. What does Rachel's view of Asian men reveal about the complications of growing up Asian in America? How does Kwan use humour to make a serious point here and in other parts of the novel?
4. Discuss the role of gossip in the novel. What kinds of rumours do Nick's friends and family spread about Rachel, and why? How do misunderstandings and misinformation (intentional or not) propel the plot and help define the characters? Consider, for example, the conversations at the Bible study class Eleanor attends and the chatter of the guests at Araminta's bachelorette party.
5. Do you see the events surround Colin's wedding and the ceremony itself as brazen, even crude displays of wealth or are there aspects of the celebrations that are appealing? How do they compare to society or celebrity weddings you have read about?
6. What sort of future do you imagine for Nick and Rachel? Is it possible for Rachel to fit into a world "so different from anything \*she's+ used to"? Does Nick fully understand the reasons for her doubts and unhappiness? What supports your point of view?
7. *Crazy Rich Asians* is a story of the extremes of conspicuous wealth and consumption. Which scenes and settings in the novel best capture this excess? What do the many references to well-known luxury brands and exotic, expensive settings contribute to your sense of the time, place, and worldview of the characters?
8. Behind its satirical tone and intent, what does the novel suggest about the ethical and emotional implications of the behaviour that the characters indulge in? Does it make you think about some of your own actions or decisions?



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## **About the Author**

Kevin Kwan is the author of the international bestsellers *Crazy Rich Asians* and *China Rich Girlfriend*. Born in Singapore, he has called New York's West Village home since 1995. For the latest news and information, please visit: [www.kevinkwanbooks.com](http://www.kevinkwanbooks.com)

Via the author's website ([www.kevinkwanbooks.com](http://www.kevinkwanbooks.com))

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