

BOOK CLUB in a bag

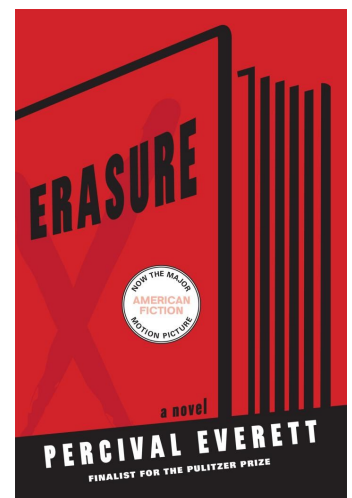


Erasure

Percival Everett

Discussion Questions

1. How does the novel's metafiction approach, including the inclusion of "My Pafology" as a central piece within the story, influence your understanding of the main character's journey and the novel's themes?
2. In what ways does the novel critique stereotypes and expectations surrounding African American literature and the publishing industry? How effective is satire in addressing these issues?
3. How does Thelonius "Monk" Ellison's identity evolve through the novel, especially in response to external pressures and his own artistic integrity?
4. How does Monk's decision to write "My Pafology" challenge conventional expectations of what constitutes authentic African American literature?
5. What broader cultural commentaries does the novel make about race relations, societal expectations, and the commodification of identity?
6. How do literary references and allusions within Erasure enrich the themes of Everett's novel?
7. How does the novel explore the dynamics between authors, their intended audiences, and the commercial pressures of the publishing world? What insights does it offer into the complexities of writing for different audiences?
8. Monk faces a dilemma between artistic integrity and commercial success throughout the novel. How does this conflict resonate with broader discussions about creativity and commerce in the arts?
9. How do humour and irony in Erasure contribute to the novel's exploration of serious themes?
10. What does the conclusion of the novel suggest about the pursuit of artistic vision and the realities of navigating the publishing world?



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About the Author

Percival Everett is the author of more than thirty books, most recently *James; Dr. No*, winner of the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award; *The Trees*, finalist for the Booker Prize; and *Telephone*, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

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