

Discussion Questions for *Ginter's Pope*

This novel is based on a true story about two men who lived together. While that can be verified through historical records, does it matter which details are fictitious and which are true? Why?

Some readers scoff at the instantaneous coupling of the two men - yet it is a well-worn storyline in many genres. How would the story unfold if they had taken longer to get to know one another? Why?

In 1895, the year John Pope died, Oscar Wilde was sentenced to prison for his relationship with another man. Why was that never a risk for the two protagonists in this story?

Because men were expected to pursue women, would it have been easier for two ladies to be together during this time period?

Should Lewis have told John about his past relationship with Franklin? Would it have complicated their interactions in the office? At Home?

Did Lewis realize why he pursued John all the way to Brooklyn? Why did he want John to accompany him to Virginia and not Charlie?

Was Jane selfish in choosing not to remarry? How would a new husband have complicated the situation with Lewis and John?

Which character did you like the most? The least?

John and Lewis were insulated from many friction points of a romantic couple. Is there one you think should have been explored further?

The adoption of John was a common practice after the Civil War to rebuild family lines. Should it be considered a substitute for marriage in this case? Why or why not?

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Lewis had intended to pass on all of his wealth to John and be buried next to him in the double plot at Hollywood Cemetery. If Lewis had died first, what complications might have arisen to prevent any of his plans to become a reality?

Was there a scene or chapter that re-read or want to re-visit? Which one and why?

How did the book impact you emotionally?

How does the title relate to the storyline for you? If it does not, what would you have titled it?

Did the story remind you of other narratives? Which ones?

Were the two men believable as a couple? Did their age difference present any obstacles for you believing they loved each other?

What were the any surprises for you in the book?

This book is the first in a series of four - did this book compel you to read more of them?

If you could cast the Netflix production of this novel, what actors would play the main characters?