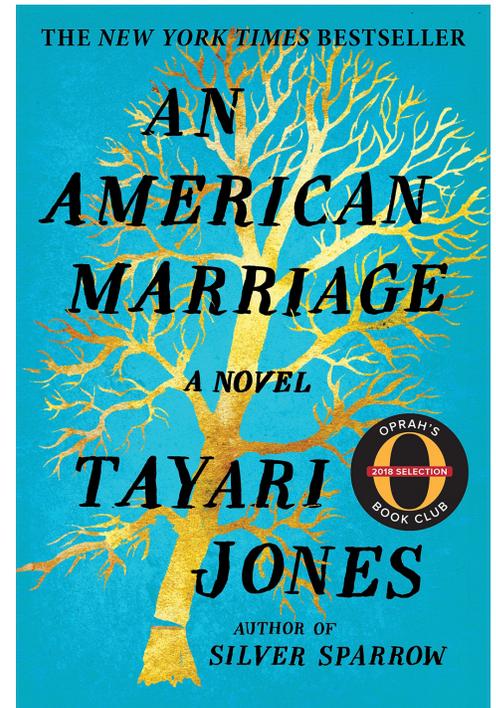


About the Author

Tayari Jones was born on November 30, 1970 in Atlanta Georgia which is also where all of her books are set. She is a graduate of Spelman College, University of Iowa, and Arizona State University. She is also an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing at Emory University.

She is the author of four novels - Leaving Atlanta, The Untelling, Silver Sparrow and An American Marriage which won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2019 and was featured in Oprah's Book Club.



About the Book

Newlyweds, Celestial and Roy, are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive and she is artist on the brink of an exciting career. They are settling into the routine of their life together, when they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.



Discussion Questions

1. What do you think the title, *An American Marriage*, represents in this story? Does the title fit the story? Why or why not?
2. Jones never specified the race of the woman who accused Roy of rape. Why do you think that is? What race did you imagine her as?
3. What did you think of the choice to portray Roy and Celestial's communication with each other while he was in prison through the writing of letters?
4. What are your thoughts about Celestial and Andre's relationship? Do you believe it was truly love for Celestial? What about for Andre?
5. Andre insists that he does not owe Roy an apology for his relationship with Celestial. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
6. If Roy had never gone to jail, do you think that his and Celestial's marriage would have lasted and would they have had kids? Why or why not?
7. Roy meets his biological father while in prison. What did you think of this revelation and the relationship between them that developed?
8. Toward the end of the novel, Celestial completely changes her path and returns to Roy. Why do you think she did this?

General Questions

1. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
2. What did you think of the writing overall? Were there any standout sentences?
3. Which was your favorite part? What about your least favorite?
4. Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?

