

Mr. and Mrs. American Pie

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Maxine claims that “most men fall into one of two categories: Fathers or Cowboys.” In what ways is she right? Wrong? What two categories might Maxine have for all women?
- Maxine’s Thanksgiving meltdown is epic, but consider the scene from the point-of-view of one of her guests. What do you think is going through their heads? What Maxine’s beloved housekeeper, Gina?
- After knowing Maxine for several weeks, Robert claims to be both “entertained” and “worried” by her. Do you think there’s more to it than that? What does Robert see in Maxine?
- It doesn’t take Maxine long to realize that Robert is never going to be romantically attracted to her. What does she see in Robert then that makes her want him in her life?
- When Robert is arrested at a gay bar, Maxine gets him out of jail by quickly marrying him. Do you think this was something she planned for, or did she just see a chance to take advantage of Robert’s lousy situation?
- You’re a housewife beauty pageant contestant in 1970. What is your talent? How do you take down Maxine?
- Mrs. Illinois Pie Maisey Walker is a vastly different person than Maxine – both in her upbringing, world experience, and outlook on life. In what ways do these two women find common ground?
- Douglas is certainly a philandering husband, but by the end of the book, do you think he’s rotten to the core? How did he see the marriage vs. how Maxine saw it?
- Maxine lies to get ahead. Robert lies to protect himself. In what way is Chuck lying?
- This is a story about four people coming together to make a family. What do you think Maxine, Robert, and Chuck would each say makes a family a “real” family?
- If Maxine, Robert, Chuck, and Dawn were living in 2018 instead of 1970, how might their story be different?