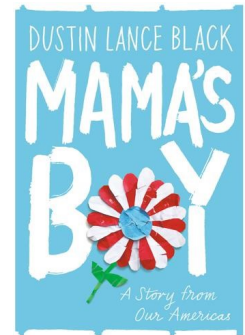


Discussion Guide

Mama's Boy: A Story From Our Americas

by Dustin Lance Black



1. The author extensively discusses family throughout his memoir. Describe the dynamics of his family growing up.
2. Dustin Lance Black's mother contracted polio at a young age, leaving her body disfigured. How did her chronic condition affect her decisions and impact her sons?
3. As a young adult, the author's mother chose the Mormon church. How did her religion influence the decisions she made throughout her life?
4. What impact did the Mormon church have on the author at a young age?
5. In what way does a sense of place - growing up in Texas then moving to California - shape the author?
6. Discuss the author's relationship with his older brother, Marcus, and the influences that either separated or bonded them.
7. The author references "broken" several times. What is broken? What is its significance to the author?
8. The book is very much a story about the author's relationship with his mother. Describe the moment his mother learns her son is gay.
9. Reconciliation is a significant theme. Discuss the various issues and relationships throughout the memoir that needed reconciling.
10. The author takes pleasure and pride being labeled a "troublemaker" by his Dean. How did this moniker influence or shape his career and advocacy work?
11. While advocating for same-sex marriage, not only did Dustin Lance Black receive backlash from conservative parties, he obtained resistance from the LGBTQ+ community. According to the author, what were the reasons?
12. Describe Dustin Lance Black's contributions to modern day LGBTQ+ issues.
13. What are some conclusions that you took away from reading this memoir? Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

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