



W.G. Book Club Discussion Prompts:

What qualities did W.G. possess that you see in current political or social figures? What scenes from his experiences were most vivid to you?

If you could ask the authors or W.G. a follow up question, what would it be?

What factors or motivations led W.G. to return to Washington DC., where he had flourished, when he was down in luck, health, and financial status?

What would you define as a pivotal moment in the book?

In what phase of his life did you sense W.G. was most vulnerable?

Who in the book would you like to meet for a dinner where you could learn more? And what would you ask?

Where in the storyline of his life would you most like to have been a “fly on the wall”?

What surprised you most as you read this?

What physical locations would you like to visit?

Do you feel that African American enlistees that enrolled prior to the establishment of the Bureau of Colored Troops, without provisions or pay, and the support of the War Department, demonstrated a different type of courage than those enlisting after? If so, how?

Do you look at the contribution of African Americans in the Union winning the Civil War differently after reading? If so how?



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Do you see parallels in today's opioid epidemic and the use of opium to treat the Civil War wounded? Does it surprise you that 160 years later opium has been prescribed so readily?

Do you feel that the actions of the recruits and officers of the 1st African American federal Union companies prior to the establishment of the Bureau of Colored Troops have been adequately recognized, both officially and historically?

Has your impression of Washington DC in the mid 1800's changed?

How do you perceive the roles of faith and religion in influencing policy and public opinion in the 19th century? Has it changed?