Discussion Questions for Joanna Scott’s CAREERS FOR WOMEN

1.) The events of the novel are relayed to the reader from a variety of different perspectives and over the course of several decades. Why does the narrator, Maggie Gleason, choose to tell the story from these varied vantage points?

2.) In what ways does the growth of the characters in Careers for Women mirror the changes that occur over the years in New York City? Which characters change the most over the course of the novel?

3.) How do you think life would be different for Pauline, Maggie, Mrs. J. and the novel’s other characters if they were living in the present day?

4.) How are the rural and urban settings in the novel connected to each other?
5.) Aluminum is identified as an important economic driver and provides the reason for a partnership between the Port Authority and Alumacore. How does the role of aluminum change over the course of the novel?

6.) There is an extensive cast of supporting characters in the pages of *Careers for Women*. Which one of these characters contributes the most to your understanding of the main characters? Why?

7.) Who are the most innocent characters? Who is responsible for the novel’s culminating events? How is responsibility different from guilt?

8.) What changes in your experience as a reader when historical figures like Lee Jaffe are mixed with fictional characters?

9.) The book indicates with its title that the "Careers" treated in its pages are exclusively "for Women." Should men read this book? Why, or why not?

10.) What does the novel's title mean to you? Did your answer change in the process of reading the book? If so, how?