



#### 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?