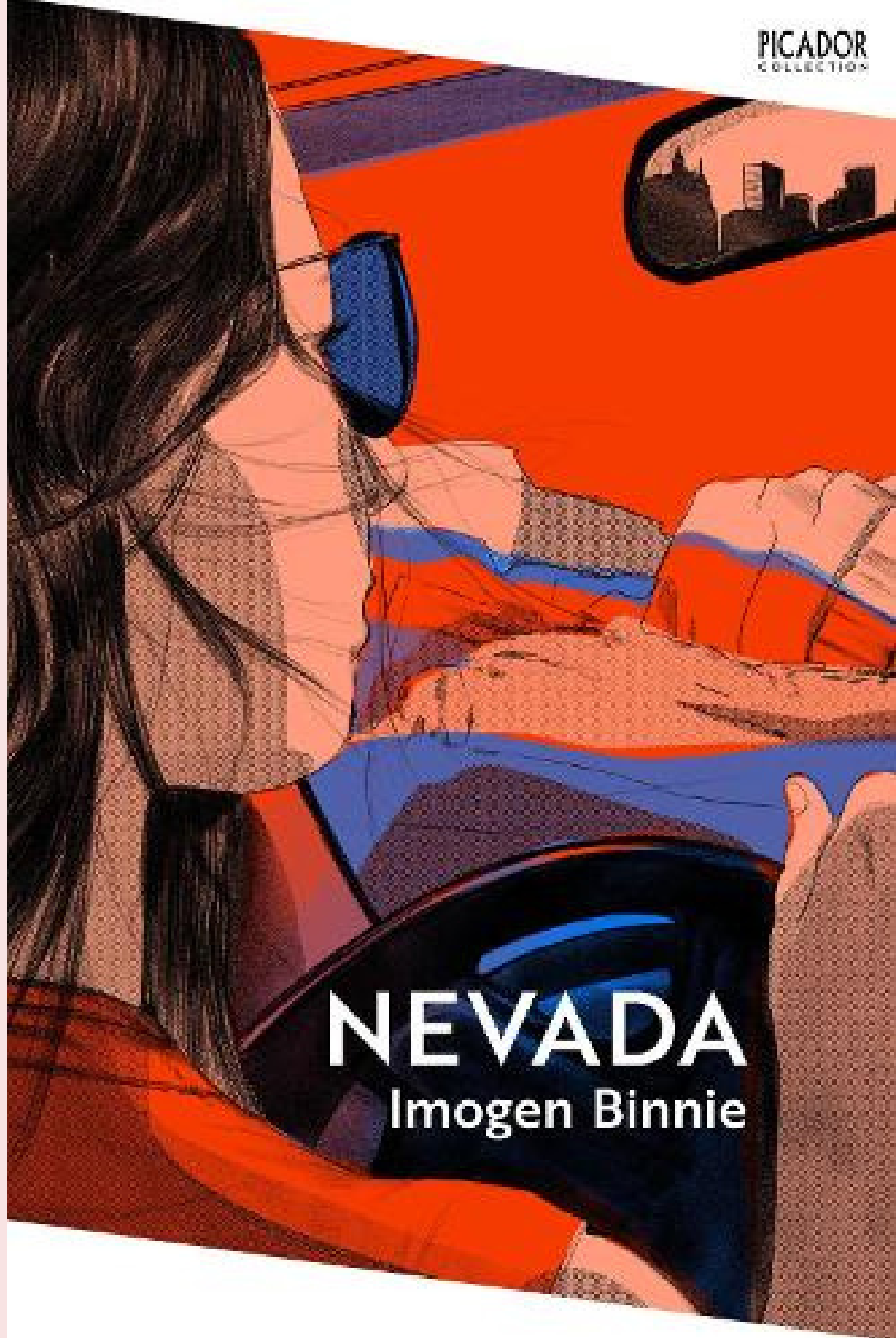




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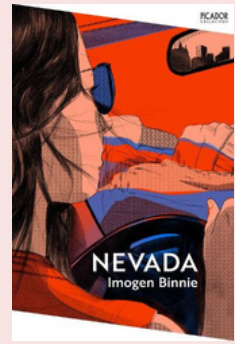
# BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

[www.brunchbookclub.com](http://www.brunchbookclub.com)

# Discussion Questions

## *Nevada*

by Imogen Binnie



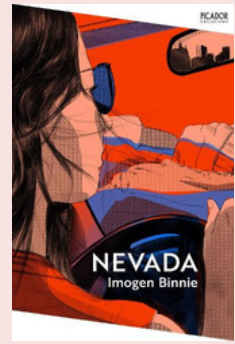
1. *Nevada* was written by a trans woman for trans women. For those who are cisgendered, how did this effect your reading? Did you feel excluded and, if so, how did this make you feel?
2. 'Trans' is defined in the dictionary as: 'denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex.' *Nevada* highlights how complex and multi-layered being trans is. After reading the book do you think the dictionary appropriately/accurately defines 'Trans'?
3. Many trans people have struggled to enjoy sex, as depicted at the very start of the novel. How did reading about Maria's struggle to enjoy sex and her detachment from her body impact your understanding of her as a transwoman and the lives of trans people?
4. Maria's life is messy and complicated, she struggles to maintain the semblance of "adult life" she has created. Does she struggle more than most because she is trans or simply because she is a messy, complicated twenty-something stumbling through life trying to get her life together?
5. There are a range of relationships presented in the novel like romantic, working, platonic, toxic, and parental. Unpack these relationships, noting what you deem to be the most formative for both James and Maria. Which relationship stuck out to you the most?
6. What did you learn about the process of transitioning from this novel? From gender identity, mental health (including suicidal thoughts and drug misuse), sexuality, medical process and living as a trans person. How do you think a person struggling with their gender may be impacted by reading about this and the book in general?
7. The meeting of the two main characters seems serendipitous, what impact does this have on James, and do you think meeting Maria helped or hindered his journey to understanding himself?



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8. In The New Yorker article 'The Invention of the Trans Novel', Stephanie Burt ponders: 'Maria can't be her true self while Steph is around. But maybe she can't be her true self anyway. What even is a true self? Can you still be trans if you don't have an answer?' Please try and answer this question.

9. Though a profoundly important book with an incredibly informative story, is *Nevada* a good piece of literature? Please note the things you liked and didn't like about it from a literary perspective; this can be structure, plot, characters, syntax, format, narrative etc.

10. Torrey Peters, author of the 2021 runaway bestseller *Detransition Baby*, has praised *Nevada* and Binnie for the positive impact it has and continues to have on her as a transwoman and writer. We read *Detransition Baby* for Brunch Book Club in June 2021. For those that read it, how do you think the two books compare? Reflecting now, do you see any of Binnie's influence in *Detransition Baby*. Do you think *Detransition Baby* could have been written and published if *Nevada* never had?

11. As a cult classic hailed as transforming the lives of trans people and the literary world, what legacy has *Nevada* left?

12. If *Nevada* were to be adapted for the screen (TV or film) who would cast for the roles of Maria, James, and Steph?

13. What insights on gender, sexuality and trans issues did you take away from reading *Nevada*?

