



I PITY THE POOR IMMIGRANT
A Novel
by Zachary Lazar

Questions for Discussion

1. Apart from the facts of David Bellen's murder, what does Hannah Groff discover in this book?
2. What did you know about Meyer Lansky before reading the novel? What did you learn about him?
3. Is Lansky presented in a negative or positive light, or both?
4. How does Hannah's relationship with her father affect her throughout this story?
5. In what ways is Hannah similar to Gila Konig? In what ways is she different?
6. What do the Hebrew words *yored* (descended) and *ole* (ascended) mean and how do they apply to Hannah? To Lansky? To Gila? To Bellen?
7. Does the book take a pro- or anti-Israel position?
8. What did you learn about the biblical King David story by reading this book? How do you feel about the author's choice to interweave the David story with Meyer Lansky's story?