



The Night of the Virgin

By Elliott Turner

DISCUSSION GUIDE

QUESTIONS

PART I

1. Why is Manny sad at the beginning? Is he an adolescent overreacting to a setback, or has something bigger slipped through his fingers?
2. What is Manny's attitude towards the people who help him, like Hector, Maribel, Bryce, and his coaches?

PART II

3. How would you describe Manny as a parent? Why doesn't Manny push Fher to try harder at soccer?
4. Why did Manny marry and stay with Albertine for so long? What does that say about him?
5. Why isn't Manny able to stare at himself in the hallway mirror at the Guzman party in Mexico City?

PART III

6. What do you think of Matt's attitude towards Manny? Does it make sense? Does it have to? How does it change over time?

7. Why did Hector feel he couldn't come out to Manny earlier in their lives? Why did Hector finally do so the night of the party?
8. Who eventually brings the wine to the party? Who is the last to arrive and what does he have to say?

PART IV

9. Why did Manny react so poorly the last time he talked with Hector in person? Is Manny as good a person as he'd like to think?
10. What is Manny's relationship like with *Catracha* in this last part as compared to the first part of the novel? Why do we never learn *Catracha's* name?

About the author

Elliott Turner has covered sports and culture as a freelance journalist. He has written for *The Guardian*, *VICE Sports*, *Fusion*, *Howler Magazine*, *The Blizzard*, and countless others. *The Night of the Virgin* is his debut novel. He lives in Houston with his wife and two children.