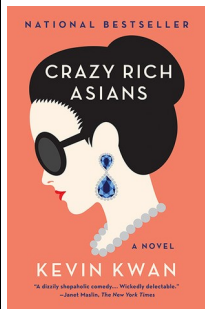




# Discussion Guide



## About the Book

Book Title: Crazy Rich Asians

Author: Kevin Kwan

Published: Doubleday, 2013

Author Website: [kevinkwanbooks.com](http://kevinkwanbooks.com)

## Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Author Kevin Kwan creates an inside look at an elite society. What has been your experience or perceptions of elite societies? To what extent did this book reflect your own experiences and perceptions?
3. What did you know about Singapore before you read this book? What questions do you have now? What more would you like to learn?
4. In what ways did the British society influence the Singapore elite? How has this society also influenced American life? In what ways is American society different?
5. Who did you identify with in this novel? Did their journey parallel yours or people you know? Explain.
6. After reading the book, how do you think the author feels about the Singapore elite? Explain. Watch his talk on growing up in Singapore on YouTube. Does that change your initial perception? Why or why not?
7. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
8. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

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*Meet Kevin Kwan on YouTube*

*“Kevin Kwan talks 'Crazy Rich Asians,' growing up in Singapore”*

*“Kevin Kwan: "Crazy Rich Asians" | Talks at Google”*



**NANCY:** Wow! Kevin Kwan spins a well-garnished tale, taking us into the midst of a world I never knew existed. From the academic arena of New York University to the elite society in Singapore, the novel unfolds with one outrageous scene after another in the midst of a modern love story of two very believable college professors. While reading, I didn't think that the story and the characters could possibly be based on reality, but after listening to the author, I learned that most of these outlandish people were based on the reality of people he met growing up in Singapore. Now with two sequels out, and movie of this book to debut in 2018, I'm in admiration of his talent and his following. Kudos to Kevin Kwan!



**SALLIE:** This book is a good study on how the rich raise their children and the long term impact. I felt for Eddie's children and his abuse of them to try to get them to be his perfect reflections. I loved Nick's parent's decision to make him stand on his own merits. I applaud Rachel's mom for working hard to raise a strong woman. Some of the others were quite spoiled and it obviously made it difficult for them as adults.



**ABIGAIL:** In some ways it surprises me that this book is a bestseller. The characters and descriptions are so ridiculous. I guess that's what they love about it. I found it such a crazy read of materialism gone wild. I had no idea such a society existed. They emulate the British social elite, as the Brits influence their society. America in many ways was a reaction against this imperialism, although our wealthy class has some similarities.



**MOLLY:** I read a book like this and I just wonder, why are people so cruel? Growing up as an African-American, I experience racism all the time, so the experiences in this book rang true. I loved the opening scene in the hotel, when the hotel manager refused to honor a reservation for the rich Asians who retaliated by buying the hotel and firing the discriminating employee. Elsewhere, the discrimination of class and national origin seemed more difficult. Rachel, especially, bears the brunt of discrimination for her origins and social class.



**PRISCILLA:** Astrid Leong, bless her heart. I loved her shopping expeditions and wished I could have her bank account! What a lady. Maybe she neglected her children a little, but I think she really loved her husband, but he didn't seem to be able to handle her wealth, and the way her family treated him.



**KATHARINE:** I'm going to suggest this book to our East Asian Studies program, because I think the students would love it and it could begin an exploration of the Chinese societies in Singapore and beyond. I've listened to Kwan speak and he states most of the attitudes and characters were almost verbatim from experiences he had growing up in Singapore. I had no idea!



**JANE:** A good study on how people handle wealth. I prefer Nick's family's approach. Keep it quiet. Don't flaunt it. But certainly there were all kinds in this book, and probably the appeal of the book are the outlandish ways people use their riches and use them to put others down. Interesting that some of this happened in the midst of Christian bible studies. Jesus wouldn't like that.