

THE
PORNOGRAPHER'S
DAUGHTER



*A Memoir of Childhood, My Dad,
and Deep Throat*

Book Club Discussion Guide for *The Pornographer's Daughter*

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The Pornographer's Daughter is a memoir that chronicles the transformation of the author's father from stockbroker to pornbroker after he is indicted by the federal government for distributing the porn classic movie *Deep Throat*. This event created challenging times for Battista-Frazeo's family and provides an insider's glimpse into the events that made *Deep Throat* and pornography so popular. Also the reader will know what it was like to come of age against the backdrop of the pornography business.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is your favorite character and why?
2. Do you think Anthony Battista's decision to distribute *Deep Throat* was purely for additional income or were there other motivations? What do you think about Frances Battista's reaction to her husband's proposal to distribute this movie? (Chapter 1)
3. Was Anthony in over his head when dealing with the mob-connected producers of *Deep Throat*? (Chapter 1, page 7-10) When it was revealed Bobby DeSalvo may have potentially been whacked (pg. 161), did this color your opinion about Anthony working with them to distribute the film?
4. Do you think the federal government's role and motivation in prosecuting the *Deep Throat* obscenity case was well founded?
5. Anthony describes his decision to open the Golden 33 as that he had no other choice and the government forced him into a career in the adult business, do you agree or disagree? What do you think about how business was conducted at the Golden 33? (Chapter 4)
6. Grandma Maria is certainly an opinionated and strong character, what do you think about her role in the family? Did she overstep her bounds too much or not enough? How much of her behavior do you think is typical of an Italian American family?
7. Frances played the role of the supportive wife and dedicated mom, why and how do you think she was able to do this? Why do you think she chose to stay with Anthony despite her family urging her to divorce him? (Chapter 5)

8. What do you think were the main precipitating factors that lead to Frances' depression and suicide attempt?
9. Do you think Frances received the right care for her mental health issues, specifically the counseling sessions before her suicide attempt and hospitalization afterwards? (Chapter 8 and 9)
10. Discuss what you think about the role food plays in this story. (Prologue, pg. 34; pg. 42-44; pg. 47; pg. 67; pg. 74-77; pg. 85; pg. 89; pg 105; Chapter 17)
11. Discuss the relationship between the author and her father. What were the most surprising or predictable aspects?
12. Discuss the relationship between the author and her mother. What were the most surprising or predictable aspects?
13. What do you think about the author's reaction to her father's profession, as child? A teenager? And young adult?
14. What do you think about the author's struggle with depression? How much could be attributed to her family's tumultuous past?
15. Why do you think the author decided to become a social worker?
16. The author did not enter into marriage capriciously; discuss what aspects of her parent's marriage and subsequent divorce attributed to her concerns and expectations.
17. When the author's daughter was born, how do you perceive this changed her thinking about her own relationship with her mother?
18. Why and how do you think the author was able to ultimately live a successful life?