

Political Fiction

Discussion Questions for *Exit Velocity*, by Barbara Gregorich

1. In what ways is the first chapter of *Exit Velocity* different from other political fiction novels you've read? In what ways is it similar? Which do you like more: the differences or the similarities? Why?
2. How does Nolan, Rowan's foreman, behave? What do you think he thinks about the pizzas and candy bars he hands out? What do Rowan and Mateo and Lyle think of them? When he behaves in this fashion, who does Nolan represent?
3. *Exit Velocity* is both political fiction, social justice fiction, and science fiction. In what ways does it belong in each of these genres? Which genre do you think it best fits into? Why?
4. Does Jake feel that the parrot is a rival? If so, in what way(s) does this come out? What does this tell us about Jake? Do you think the situation is humorous? If so, in what way(s)?
5. What are some of the things about life under capitalism that horrify Deeply? What kind of information does he report back to FeeOna? Why?
6. Which of Rowan's fellow workers do you like the best? Why? In what ways are they like Rowan? In what ways are they different?
7. Why do you think that neither Jake nor Rowan report their knowledge of Deeply to any federal agency? Do you think they are right or wrong in doing so?
8. Working Class Control is a very organized, efficient organization. Jake thinks it's more reliable than an atomic clock. Do you think that the way WCC functions is realistic? Explain why you think so.
9. Rowan is very concerned about the class differences between herself and Jake. What does she think some of the differences are? Do you think she's being realistic in her concern? Why or why not?
10. What kind of politics are going on in the Stop Violence Against Women meetings? Do you think it's fair of Marla to accuse Rowan of "having a political agenda"? Why or why not?
11. Deeply says that donuts are too good to be true, that they made him lose all sense of the difference between what he wanted and what he needed. What does this mean? Do you agree or disagree? How does this relate to consumerism under capitalism?
12. Rowan and Snoddy are both against gun control, but they are enemies. In what ways are they divided on the issue of gun control?