



Colorado Book Club Resource

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE RADIUM GIRLS

BY KATE MOORE

1. Trace the emotional trajectory of the women who worked with radium paint—from their initial excitement about their jobs to their realization that it was killing them.
2. What do you find most horrifying about the suffering the women endured as their health deteriorated? Was this too difficult to read? Or did you get through it?
3. Talk about the response of the United States Radium Corporation to the women's complaints—how much did it truly understand about the hazards of radium? What arguments did the company enlist against the health claims of the women?
4. What most outraged you about the treatment the women received? The dentist who approached the company for hush money, for instance? What else?
5. To what extent do today's laws offer workers protection against hazardous materials and other dangers in the workplace? Consider OSHA, for instance. How far have we come? What relevance does this story have in the 21st century?

Questions by LitLovers.



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