

- 1) Which plot twists did you anticipate? Which did you not expect? Why? How do they contribute to the propulsive pace of the book?
- 2) Despite the title's exclusive reference to the male sex, women also figure prominently in the narrative. Discuss the role of female figures in *Every Man a Menace*.
- 3) The name Shadrack is an alternate spelling of Shadrach, a biblical figure in the Book of Daniel. Shadrach is thrown into a fiery furnace when he refuses to worship an idol. He is saved by a miracle. Upon observing this, the king issues a death penalty for anyone who speaks against Shadrach's god. How might *Every Man a Menace* parallel elements of this biblical story? Are there other biblical themes apparent in Hoffman's book?
- 4) Names are very important in Hoffman's book. In addition to biblical names, what might other names allude to?
- 5) Do you have sympathy for any of the characters? Why?
- 6) How do you think Hoffman's work as a private eye and investigator [for the public defender's office of San Francisco](#) might have contributed to his writing the book?
- 7) It can be difficult to maintain suspense when writing realistically about the present day, because access to smart phones means that a lot of questions can be answered instantly. Some writers purposely underrepresent technology for this reason. How does Hoffman approach technology in *Every Man A Menace*?
- 8) The book has been described as having "a dash of dark humour from a Coen Brothers movie." ([Hollywood Reporter](#)). To what degree do you think this is an apt comparison? What, if any, elements of the book did you find humorous?
- 9) Who would you cast if the book were to be adapted to film?
- 10) Can you think of other books or films that might have inspired *Every Man a Menace*?