The World According to Fannie Davis by Bridgett M. Davis

An homage to the author’s mother relates how she cleverly played Detroit’s illegal lottery in the 1970s to support the family while creating a loving, joyful home and mothering her children to the highest standards.


About the Author: Bridgett M. Davis is Professor of Journalism and the Writing Professions at Baruch College, CUNY, where she teaches creative, film and narrative writing and is Director of the Sidney Harman Writer-in-Residence Program. A graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, she is the director of the award-winning feature film Naked Acts, as well as the author of two novels, Into the Go-Slow and Shifting Through Neutral. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her family.

Questions for Discussion

1. Does Bridgett Davis provide enough background material on the Numbers to get the reader involved?

2. How vividly did Davis recreate Fannie’s life? What drew you in? What, if anything, seemed too dry or unnecessarily detailed?

3. What did you find to be Fannie’s most admirable quality?

4. What did you find to be the most interesting events in the book? What, if anything, surprised you?

5. How did you feel about Fannie’s dream of going to Vanderbilt University and majoring in history?

6. Why do you think Fannie and Burt did not live as husband and wife for the first six months of their marriage?

7. Fannie and other Numbers runners often used their proceeds to help others in their community. Do you feel this was to help deal with any guilt or a guilty conscious on their part?

8. Do you feel Bridgett Davis was being honest in the telling of her mother’s story?

9. Why do you think Bridgett’s father, John T., didn’t attend her 16th birthday party?

10. Have any of YOUR thoughts or views changed after reading this book? If so, how?