

NOTORIOUS RBG

BY IRIN CARMON & SHANA KNIZHNIK READING GROUP GUIDE

- 1.** RBG didn't become a feminist until relatively late in life, when her students' activism spurred her to look at her own life differently and join the movement. What was the moment you became a feminist?
- 2.** Looking back on her life, RBG has said there were three strikes against her, as a woman, a mother, and a Jew. How did she overcome them? And conversely, what privileges did she benefit from?
- 3.** RBG has said, "Fortunately, in my marriage, I didn't get second-class treatment." What was your reaction to learning about her marriage to Marty Ginsburg?
- 4.** Controversially for the co-founder of the ACLU Women's Rights Project, RBG mostly represented men before the Supreme Court. How are men still hurt by gender norms, or what she would call sex role stereotyping?
- 5.** "Anger, resentment, indulgence in recriminations waste time and sap energy," RBG says. And yet she became known as a great dissenter, inspiring Shana to start the Notorious RBG phenomenon. How do you choose when to get angry and when to pick another battle?
- 6.** Kathleen Peratis recalls her boss RBG telling her of the Supreme Court, "Don't ask them to go too far too fast, or you'll lose what you might have won." Should we apply this advice to social change in general?
- 7.** What can we learn from RBG's friendship with the late Antonin Scalia? Is it an inspiration for cross-political friendships, or is there a point at which the political becomes too personal?
- 8.** The authors included a chapter on RBG's fashion and fitness. Should these topics be off limits when we talk about women in power, or should we all just chill?
- 9.** Feminism, as a sociopolitical movement and ideology, often advocates for a radical, often utopic vision for society. Legal precedents, in contrast, take time to evolve and develop to create meaningful change in society. How does Justice Ginsburg balance her feminism with the work of the court and legal precedent?
- 10.** RBG hated being the only woman on the bench, and says, "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made." To what extent does it matter to have women in the room where it happens?
- 11.** How is RBG's version of feminism still relevant today?