

# ***We Demand: The Suffrage Road Trip***

## **Book Club Discussion Topics/Questions**

1. Ingeborg and Maria volunteered to bring the petitions to DC without fully realizing what they were getting themselves into.
  - Would you have done this?
  - What causes do you support that would make you do the same?
  - Are there times in your own life when you've acted so impetuously? What was the result?
2. Why were Ingeborg and Maria secretive about their visits with Joe Hill and Ida Wells Barnett?
  - How might discovery of those visits have affected their relationship with the Congressional Union, and their involvement with the project?
3. Similarly, why did Ingeborg and Maria feel they had to keep their relationship a secret?
  - What might have happened if they'd been known to be a lesbian couple?
4. Have you ever done a long trip with people you didn't know well, or who were of a different generation or background?
  - How was it?
  - Can you relate to the conflicts the envoys experience on their travels?
5. In *We Demand*, Ingeborg experiences something of an epiphany as she realizes that racism in the movement- and the country as a whole- will hollow out the meaning and value of suffrage.
  - Was she right to give into that?
  - What options did she have?
  - What might you have done in her place?
6. Between the roads and the weather, the cross-country road trip was very challenging. Was there a specific moment/action that inspired you?
7. Was it necessary for the trip to be so brutal? Was Alice Paul, in fact, looking for a martyr?
8. Ingeborg and Maria encounter issues of class, race, misogyny, immigrant status, and labor.
  - If they did the trip today, would they encounter some or all of these issues? Any different ones?
9. Was the CU justified in keeping Ingeborg and Maria from delivering speeches because they didn't live in an equal suffrage state?
  - Do you think there were other reasons?
  - How might the CU have approached this differently?
10. Should Ingeborg and Maria have gotten more recognition for their accomplishments on this trip, if not at the time, then from future historians?
  - Why haven't they been celebrated previously?
11. Does their story inspire you to incorporate authentic action in your own life? In what way(s)?