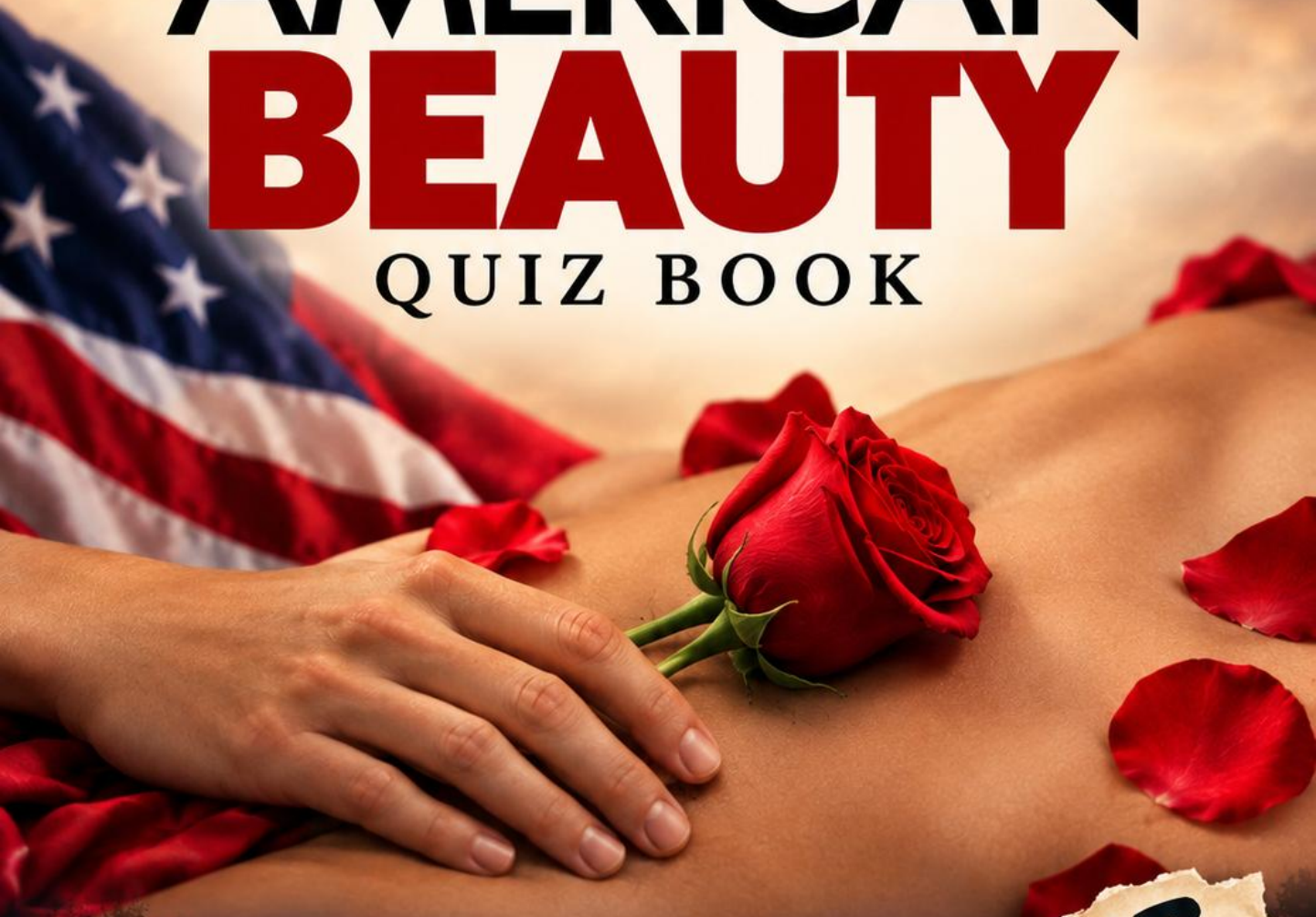




AMERICAN BEAUTY

QUIZ BOOK



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AMERICAN BEAUTY

QUIZ BOOK

WELCOME

Thank you for choosing this Wooden Spoon Quizzes quiz book on American Beauty.

Inside you'll find 48 questions celebrating this acclaimed and thought-provoking film. Whether you're a long-time fan or have only seen it once, we hope you enjoy putting your knowledge to the test.

Grab a pen, gather your fellow film fans and let the quiz begin!

*Life
looks different
up close...*



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AMERICAN BEAUTY

QUIZ BOOK

SCORE TRACKER

HOW DID YOU DO?

Round 1

OUT OF 12

Round 2

OUT OF 12

Round 3

OUT OF 12

Round 4

OUT OF 12

Total

OUT OF 48

*Life
looks different
up close...*



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Round 1

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lester Burnham casually reveals his fate right at the beginning of the film — how old is he when the story begins? | 7. Which flower famously surrounds Angela during Lester's fantasy about her? |
| 2. According to Lester's opening narration, he expects to be dead within what length of time? | 8. After overhearing Angela talking about him, what does Lester begin doing regularly in his garage? |
| 3. In which profession is Carolyn Burnham desperately trying to establish herself as a success? | 9. What image of confidence and experience does Angela repeatedly try to project about her sex life? |
| 4. Successful rival Buddy Kane promotes himself using what regal-sounding nickname? | 10. Colonel Frank Fitts is retired from which branch of the US military? |
| 5. Before engineering his escape from corporate life, what type of business does Lester work for? | 11. What illegal product provides Ricky with a surprisingly lucrative secret income? |
| 6. At what type of sporting event does Lester first become captivated by Angela Hayes? | 12. What expensive equipment does Ricky use to obsessively record the world around him? |

Round 2

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Ricky initially unsettles Jane by filming her through what part of her house? | 7. What activity involving a handgun provides Carolyn with an exhilarating outlet for her frustrations? |
| 2. When his supervisor confronts him at Carolyn's professional function, how does Ricky respond? | 8. Carolyn begins an affair with a man who is both a professional rival and someone she greatly admires — what is his profession? |
| 3. What does Lester begin buying regularly from Ricky after the pair strike up an unlikely friendship? | 9. What everyday object being blown around by the wind appears in one of Ricky's favourite recordings? |
| 4. Faced with corporate restructuring, what underhand tactic does Lester use to secure himself a generous severance package? | 10. As Jane spends more time with Ricky, what does their relationship develop into? |
| 5. After leaving his old career behind, what type of establishment does Lester deliberately choose for his new job? | 11. Beneath Angela's confident exterior, what does she secretly fear being considered? |
| 6. What red 1970 muscle car does Lester buy after deciding to reclaim some of his youth? | 12. In which part of his new workplace does Lester unexpectedly encounter Carolyn and Buddy together? |

Round 3

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What ongoing legal situation makes Buddy especially worried about the financial consequences of his affair being discovered? | 7. After finally escaping his father's control, to which city does Ricky ask Jane to run away with him? |
| 2. What does Buddy do after Lester discovers his affair with Carolyn? | 8. Which word used by Ricky strikes directly at Angela's greatest insecurity about herself? |
| 3. What does Frank discover Ricky has filmed Lester doing naked in his garage? | 9. What weapon does Carolyn have with her as she prepares to return home on the night of Lester's death? |
| 4. When Frank later spies on Ricky and Lester, what is Ricky actually supplying to Lester? | 10. What type of recording is Carolyn listening to as she repeatedly tells herself she refuses to be a victim? |
| 5. Rather than explain the truth, what does Ricky falsely claim Lester has been paying him for? | 11. After being thrown out of his home, who does Ricky immediately go to see? |
| 6. What does Frank do to Ricky after believing his deliberately provocative story? | 12. What unexpected advance does Frank make towards Lester during their final encounter? |

Round 4

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. After Frank's unwanted advance, what does the humiliated colonel do? | 7. When Angela asks how he is doing, what does Lester finally realise about himself? |
| 2. Following her confrontation with Ricky and Jane, in what emotional state does Lester find Angela? | 8. Where does Angela go shortly before Lester is left alone in the kitchen? |
| 3. Angela reveals that her argument with Jane had actually been about whom? | 9. What family item does Lester look at immediately before his murder? |
| 4. What admission from Angela immediately causes Lester to stop their sexual encounter? | 10. Where on Lester's body is the fatal gunshot fired? |
| 5. Rather than continuing the encounter, what does Lester do for Angela as the pair talk quietly together? | 11. After returning home, where does Carolyn retreat before breaking down and clutching Lester's clothes? |
| 6. When Lester asks about Jane, what does Angela tell her about Jane's love life? | 12. What missing item from Frank Fitts' collection helps reveal the identity of Lester's killer? |

One For The Bar!

FIFTEEN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FILM



Screenwriter Alan Ball got the inspiration for the famous floating plastic-bag sequence after watching a bag being blown around outside New York's World Trade Center.



Sam Mendes deliberately altered Jane and Angela's appearances as the film progresses: Thora Birch gradually wears less makeup, while Mena Suvari wears more, reflecting changes in how the girls see themselves.



The film was Sam Mendes' feature-film directorial debut. He was unhappy enough with his first few days of filming that DreamWorks allowed him to reshoot the material.



The original version of the story went considerably further after Lester's death, with Ricky and Jane being prosecuted for his murder. Those scenes were ultimately removed during editing.



When Lester hurls the asparagus during the family dinner, Kevin Spacey was supposed to throw it onto the floor. The surprised reactions from Annette Bening and Thora Birch were genuine.



Around 30 minutes were removed from the original edit, including a dream sequence in which Lester imagined himself flying over the neighbourhood.



Many of the rose petals seen during Lester's fantasy sequences weren't really there during filming — they were added digitally in post-production. Some real petals were also used, with their supporting wires digitally removed.



Lester's application scene at the fast-food restaurant was actually filmed at night and subsequently altered to appear as though it took place during the daytime.



The cheerleading routine performed at the school basketball game was choreographed by pop star and choreographer Paula Abdul.



The film was originally conceived by Alan Ball as a stage play before it eventually became a screenplay.



The Burnham and Fitts houses were actually neighbouring properties on the Warner Bros. backlot. Parts were specially rebuilt so the filmmakers could create the sightlines between the characters' windows that become important to the story.



Producer Bruce Cohen makes a small cameo in the film as the bartender at the catering event where Ricky is working.



Kevin Spacey improvised Lester's behaviour while driving around stoned and singing along to "American Woman."



One of Angela's lines about wanting to have "ten thousand" babies was inspired by something Alan Ball heard a fan shout at Bono during a U2 concert.



Kevin Spacey and Wes Bentley's laughter while Lester and Ricky are smoking outside the restaurant wasn't entirely acting — both performers genuinely started laughing during filming.



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ANSWERS

ROUND 1

1. 42 years old
2. Less than a year
3. Real Estate Agent
4. The King of Real Estate
5. Advertising executive and writer for a trade magazine
6. High School Basketball Game
7. Red Rose Petals
8. Lifting weights and working out
9. A highly experienced, sexually adventurous, and promiscuous woman who is completely comfortable with her sexuality
10. United States Marine Corps
11. Marijuana
12. Sony Digital Handycam (MiniDV Camcorder)

ROUND 2

1. Bedroom Window
2. He quits his job
3. Marijuana (Top Gun)
4. Blackmail
5. Fast-food restaurant (Mr. Smiley's)
6. 1970 Pontiac Firebird
7. Target shooting at a firing range
8. Real Estate Broker
9. A plastic bag
10. A deep, supportive, romantic partnership
11. Ordinary
12. The Drive-thru window of his new workplace

ROUND 3

1. He is facing a potentially complex and highly expensive divorce from his own wife
2. He end his affair with Carolyn
3. Lifting weights and working out
4. Marijuana
5. Sex
6. Frank breaks down in tears and disowns Ricky, ordering him to leave the house permanently
7. New York City
8. Ordinary
9. Handgun
10. A self-help motivational audio recording
11. Jane Burnham
12. He attempts to kiss Lester Burnham

ROUND 4

1. Walks away
2. Crying, distraught, and deeply shaken
3. Lester
4. She is a virgin
5. He stops, covers Angela with a blanket, and comforts her
6. That Jane is really happy and thinks she is in love
7. He is truly happy and at peace with his life
8. The bathroom
9. An old family photograph
10. Into the back of Lester's head
11. Her bedroom closet
12. A handgun from his gun cabinet



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It's a
strange world,
isn't it?

AMERICAN BEAUTY

QUIZ BOOK

Behind the immaculate lawns and picture-perfect homes of American suburbia, things are beginning to unravel.

American Beauty follows Lester Burnham, a middle-aged husband and father trapped in a life he has grown to despise. As he begins to rebel against his job, his marriage and the expectations surrounding him, the carefully maintained façade of his family life starts to crack — revealing frustration, obsession, loneliness and secrets lurking beneath the surface.

Darkly funny, provocative and unforgettable, the film takes a satirical look at suburban life, relationships, desire and the pursuit of happiness.

This Wooden Spoon Quizzes book celebrates American Beauty and the characters, events and story that made it one of the most talked-about films of its era.

*Look
closer...*



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