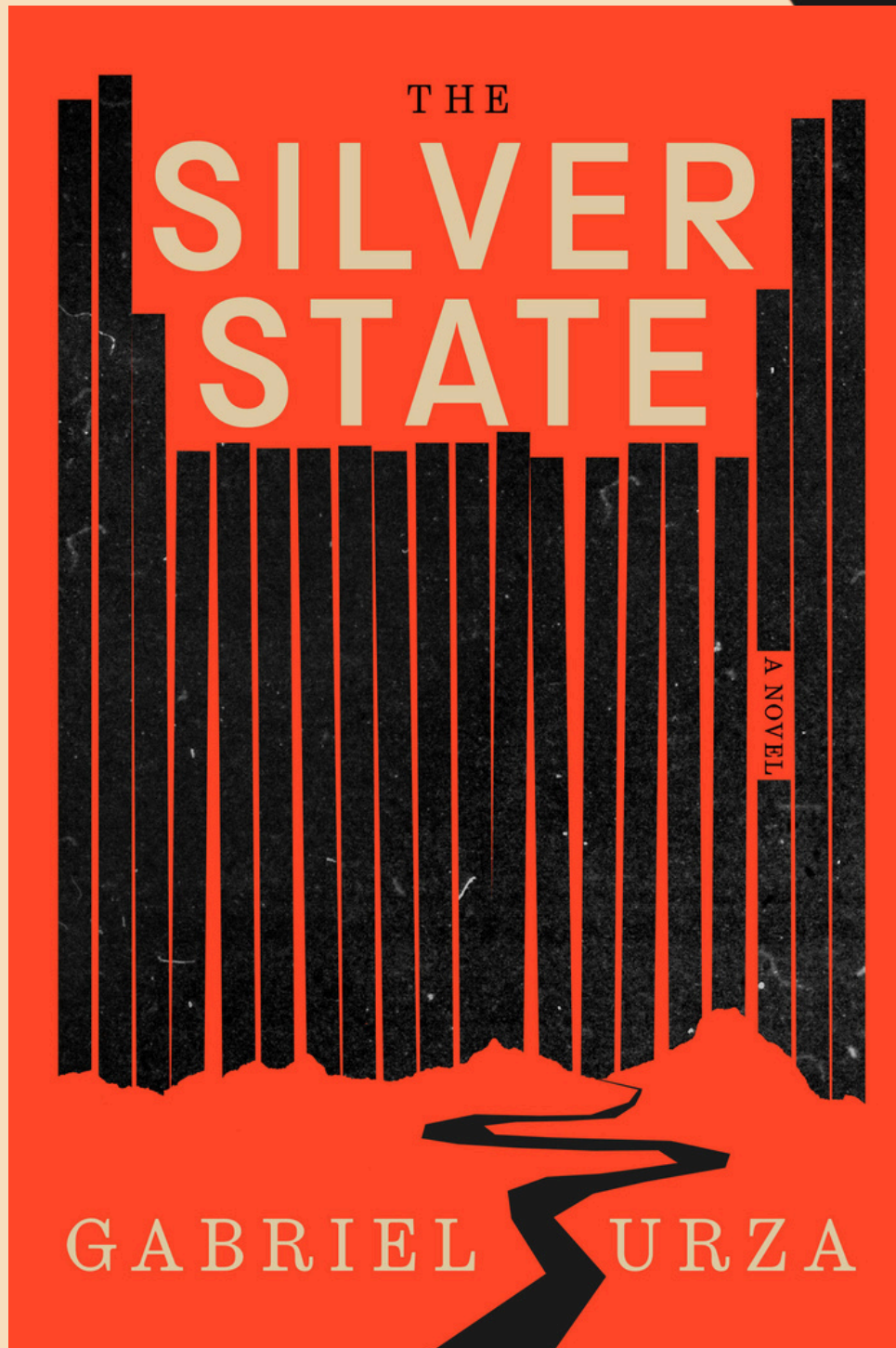


# BOOK CLUB KIT



# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1 What are your experiences with the criminal justice system? What do you see as its strengths and what are its shortcomings?
- 2 The narrator, Santi, gets thrown into the job of public defender pretty quickly—does this seem like a fair or good way to train a new attorney? What are the possible negative consequences?

In *The Silver State*, defense attorneys and prosecutors work together every day. They also socialize with each other, and outcomes of their cases often depend on the personal relationships between attorneys. What problems could this present?
- 3 In what ways does race factor into the way justice works in *The Silver State*? How is Anna Weston's case similar to Ruth Walton's? How is it different?
- 4 The novel begins and ends in the desert. What role does the landscape play in the novel?
- 5 What is Jasper's role in the novel? How is he like Santi, and how is he different?
- 6 Santi tells a Black client, Paul Harris, that even though he's innocent, a jury will likely not believe him over a police officer because of his race. Does this seem like Santi is being a good lawyer, or a bad one?
- 7 What do you think of Michael Atwood? Can or should you feel sympathy for a killer?
- 8 In the end, C.J. keeps the secret of Ruth's murder, while Santi discloses it to the police. Who is right? Who is the better attorney? Who is the better or moral person?
- 9 Why does Santi quit at the end of the book? Did he really not know all along that Michael was the killer, or was this a lie he told himself that allowed him to continue to do his job?
- 10