Chapter Three

p. 48, ¶ 1, line 6 – “What mattered most to Madison... was who would stand firm for radical changes in the nation’ government – and who would oppose those changes.”

p. 48, ¶ 2, sentence 1 – “Although John Adams had described the convention members as men of ‘Ability, Weight, and Experience’ and Thomas Jefferson had, in a moment of reckless exaggeration, pronounced them as ‘demi-gods,’ neither judgement captured the true character of the gathering.”

p. 49, ¶ 2, sentence 2 – “Although many of the men were strangers to one another, they could see quickly that they shared much in common. They were men of wealth and comfort – landowners, slaveholders, lawyers, merchants, land and securities speculators, and an occasional doctor or clergyman – men with a near monopoly on formal and professional training in a predominantly agrarian society.”

p. 49, ¶ 2, last sentence – “Yet there was no one in the room who might properly be called a man of ordinary means, a yeoman farmer, a shopkeeper, a sailor, or a laborer.”

p. 50, ¶ 2, whole ¶ – “Thus, the East Room was filled with middle-aged men...” [ends on next page].

p. 51, ¶ 2, line 4 – “A dozen men emerged as the critical participants in the convention, shaping the debates, igniting the controversies, and proposing the compromises that made a new constitution possible. Madison was... one of them. Hamilton, restricted as he was by the makeup of his delegation and his own outspoken extreme views, was another. Benjamin Franklin, as the grand old man of the Revolution, was a third, although the convention gave the doctor more respect than actual authority that summer.”

p. 53, ¶ 1, line 9 – “He scandalized the convention’s proper New Englanders by his open philandering, although he won the admiration of the more worldly New Yorkers and South Carolinians, who marveled at the success in the boudoir of this fleshy middle-aged man hobbled by a wooden leg.”

p. 53, ¶ 1, line 14 – “Morris’ oratorical skills were as remarkable as his sexual appetite.”

p. 53, ¶ 1, line 20 – “Morris viewed most men and women as his social and intellectual inferiors, yet he was deeply committed to a republican form of government.”
Note: Morris was complex, as are most people; i.e., full of contradictions. It should be noted that Morris was not banned by the other Founders from performing his responsibilities for his adulterous behavior.

Note: The small states feared the power of the large states.

Question: What was the term the Nationalists used to describe their philosophy about the structure of the new federal government? [Answer on page 59].

Question: Why did George Mason oppose the Constitution? [Answer on page 59].

p. 64, ¶ 1, line 1 – “The men gathering in Philadelphia were a different breed of revolutionary.”

Question: Why did the delegates want secrecy? [Answer on page 65].

p. 66, ¶ 4, line 1 – “Slowly, Randolph began. He recited the familiar litany of the Confederation’ many flaws and failures: the inadequacies of the requisitions system; the threat of social anarchy; the embarrassment of unpaid foreign debts; the violations of treaties, by foreign nations and even by some of the states; and the havoc produced by paper money.”

p. 67, ¶ 2, the whole ¶ – “With that, Randolph offered up the fifteen resolutions that amounted....”