



GENERAL HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK CLUB GUIDE

To guide your book club discussion of your chosen historical novel, select which questions you would like to cover at your gathering.

- 1) For the person who chose this book: What made you want to read it? What made you suggest it to the group for discussion? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
- 2) Talk about the historical period in which the story is set. How well does the author convey the era? Did the author remain true to the events, social structures and political events of the time period?
- 3) Is this an historical period that you knew a lot about before you read this book? If so, did you learn anything new? If not, do you have a greater understanding of this particular time and place in history?
- 4) When reading historical fiction, is it difficult to keep our own, modern-day experiences from influencing our perception of the story? Can we realistically imagine what life was like for the characters within the story and period?
- 5) What was unique about the setting of the book, and how did it enhance or take away from specific themes in the novel? What do you think the author is trying to get across to the reader?
- 6) What does this book teach you about the roles of men and women during the historical period of this novel?

- 7) What struggles and problems did the main characters face?
- 8) Compare this book to other works of historical fiction your group has read. Is it similar to some of them? Did you like it more or less than other books you've read? What will be your lasting impression of this book?
- 9) What did you like or dislike about the book that hasn't been discussed already? Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Do you want to read more work by this author?
- 10) If this book were to be made into a movie, who would you cast for the main characters?
- 11) What would be the advantages or disadvantages of living during this period in history? Would you like living in this era? Why or why not?
- 12) What are the major conflicts in the story?
- 13) Do the characters seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
- 14) How do the characters change, grow or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger these changes?
- 15) How would you react if you were in the same situation?
- 16) Did the storyline change your opinion of an event, place or historical period? How?
- 17) If the author were to write a sequel to this book, what do you think would happen to the characters?

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