

M A R K
of
Distinction

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J E S S I C A
D O T T A



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Throughout the story, Julia longs to win her father's love and approval, to no avail. Can you think of an example of someone (perhaps yourself) pursuing love and affection from those who don't reciprocate? In Julia's situation, how would you advise her to proceed?
2. We often attribute suffering to sin and blessings to God's favor, but 1 Peter speaks of Christians being called to suffer. To what degree is Julia's suffering a result of her own choices versus the sovereign will of God? What does she learn about God's will through her suffering? How ought we to respond to suffering in our own lives? Can you think of an example from your life where good has come from a difficult situation?
3. Like most young adults, Julia has different goals for her life than her father does. In today's era, how would you advise teens who are strongly opposed to their parents' will? In chapter 22, Julia reads some Scripture passages about children obeying their parents, and these verses give her pause. How would you explain passages like these? (For instance, see Ephesians 6:1.) How would you advise wives when they are opposed to their husbands' leadership? Compare and contrast the differences between these scenarios.

4. How do we decide when to step in and cover someone else's mistakes? How might this book have been different had Julia, from the start, refused to go along with her father's lie about her family history? Do you think Julia is right or wrong in her choice? Are Lord Pierson and Isaac right or wrong to intervene in Julia's life?
5. Lord Pierson consistently treats Julia according to her faults, while Isaac seeks to treat people as if they have become what they are meant to be. How do these contrasting perspectives impact the individuals involved? Does the way we treat and view people affect how they behave and what they become? Can you think of an example from your own experience?
6. Discuss the differences between Lord Pierson's relationship with Isaac and his relationship with Julia. How much can be attributed to Victorian-era views of men and women, and how much is a reflection of Pierson's own personality and choices?
7. A theme that runs through the *Price of Privilege* trilogy is Julia's self-determination—discovering what choices and actions are truly available to her. At one point near the end of this book, after surrendering her life to God, Julia wrestles with whether partnering with Forrester indicates a lack of trust in God's sovereignty. How does surrendering to God's will differ from passively relinquishing all responsibility? When should we act, and when should we wait on God? How can we tell which is appropriate in a situation? What are some of the hardest things about surrendering to God?
8. What do you think the future holds for Julia, Edward, Lord Pierson, Isaac, and Macy in the final book of the trilogy? What do you hope will happen? What do you fear will happen?