



P R I C E  
*of*  
*Privilege*

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

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. How has Julia changed throughout the three books, and what have been her steps along the way? Consider the following areas of her life: attitude toward God, interactions with others, self-confidence, self-worth, and hopes and expectations for her future.
2. One of the themes in the Price of Privilege series is that a person's daily life decisions ripple outward, resulting in long-range consequences and repercussions. As one example, how do Lady Josephine's decisions play a role in Isaac's downfall long after her death? In what ways might your choices continue to have weight beyond your own lifetime?
3. Isaac's thread is the shortest on Julia's timeline, yet his life has an inordinately significant impact on hers. Can a brief meeting—perhaps even an unspoken meeting—change the course of someone's life? Can you think of someone who may not have been part of your life for very long but had a lasting impact on you? Why do you think they affected you so deeply?
4. Julia bemoans the waste and excess in her father's household, yet when she and Edward find themselves in

need, they are willing to live under Pierson's roof. How do you feel about the scene in chapter 14 where Edward takes a stand and refuses to wear the requisite finery? Do you agree with any aspects of Edward's argument, and if so, which ones? Do you find Isaac's counterargument persuasive?

5. How does Macy use his wealth and influence? Lord Pierson? Isaac has no great wealth of his own, but how does he utilize the resources at his disposal? Consider what Jesus says about wealth in Matthew 19:23-26. What words of caution do these verses have for the materially wealthy? What hope do they provide for the wealthy—and for all of us? How can a person avoid getting mired in possessions and financial concerns?
6. In chapter 26, Julia considers what might have happened had she submitted to authority rather than trying to take matters into her own hands. Would this have been a better course for her? For Edward? When is it right to wait, and when should a person take action? What is your typical response when faced with an unwanted or uncertain situation?
7. At one point in the book, Edward believes himself called to the orphanage, as does Jameson. Julia believes the opportunity in South Africa may be God's provision. How well are we able to determine what God is doing in our lives based on what is currently visible to us? (Consider the biblical story of Joseph, especially Genesis 50:15-21.) What are the dangers of judging others or ourselves based only on the circumstances we can see?
8. Edward chooses a radical path, refusing to be boxed in by rules and societal expectations, while Isaac opts to learn from and obey them, working to influence the system from

within. What are the advantages and disadvantages to each of these paths? How should a person determine which one to follow?

9. Jameson and Edward treat Julia differently than she's been treated in the previous two books. These relationships, combined with Isaac's sacrifice, transform Julia. As a reader, did you react differently to Julia in this book because several characters acknowledge her value? Does how we treat someone really change them and the way they are seen by others? What, then, is our responsibility to the broken and downtrodden?
10. In Julia's society, expectations of men were very different from expectations of women. What aspects of Julia's struggles in this series are a direct result of Victorian constraints on women? Have you ever felt at a disadvantage because of your gender?
11. Though restricted in many ways by Victorian gender roles, Julia exhibits her own gender bias when she arrives at Maplecroft and winks at the menservants' state of unreadiness but is stern with the female staff. Like Julia, are we at times blind to biases in our own culture? Where do you witness double standards today? (Consider areas of education, career, media portrayals, parenthood.) Have you ever knowingly or unknowingly perpetuated these double standards? How can we recognize and break these cycles?