

Reading Group Guide

1. Who was the man in purple? What does he signify to you? Is there a “man in purple” in your life? Charlotte is so close to her own situation, she can’t see what’s in front of her: the wedding dress. Are you aware of those thin-veil God moments where the supernatural impacts the natural? How can you be more aware of Jesus interacting with you?
2. Emily struggles with the rules of her society. She wants to be vocal; she wants to pursue her own desires. What might Emily have done to speak out against the convict leasing injustice? What can you do to speak against true injustice?
3. Charlotte and Tim had a whirlwind courtship. For a moment, it seemed like they wouldn’t make it. But love triumphed. Is there a similar time in your life when love triumphed sorrow or injustice?
4. Hillary faced the most devastating heartbreak: losing her husband to war. What did you think of the way she responded? What would you have done different / the same? Do you know anyone who is struggling with this reality? How can you support her?
5. Mary Grace is a woman of faith. How did her quiet humility impact her father? Is there a time to be silent and just let the Spirit work in another person? How can you be successful at guarding your tongue?

6. In the midst of Hillary reliving her pain over losing Joel, Charlotte challenges her, “What if marrying Joel was not about you, but him?” We tend to believe everything we do in life pertains to us personally. Would you be willing to do something for someone if there was nothing in it for you? How can we live out this reality in every day life? Consider Jesus dying on the Cross as our highest example.
7. Charlotte learns she’s not an orphan, but a descendent of a marvelous woman. What does this knowledge unlock in her heart? How would you have responded to such news?
8. In the wedding ceremony, Thomas talks about the dress being like the Gospel—it never fades, is always in style, never needs to be altered, and it fits everyone who tries it on. We see a lot of “tweaking” of the Gospel today to “fit our needs.” Where have you allowed the truth of the Gospel to be altered to fit your own needs or desires? How can we remain faithful and true to the simplicity of Jesus’ Gospel?
9. Tim sells his motocross bikes. What does this symbolize in his life? What change took place in his heart? Is there something you’re hanging on to, good or bad, that you need to release to the Lord?
10. The affair Charlotte’s birth father had with her mother nearly ruined his marriage. In order to heal his relationship with his wife, he gave up being Charlotte’s father. We see in this how sin complicates the good things God gives us: marriage, children, love. What should Colby have done to show honor in this situation? Is there a situation you’re facing where honor will cause healing—if not for yourself, for others?
11. Weddings are a joy! Discuss a happy memory from your wedding, or the wedding you hope to have one day.