

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

***The Forenoon Bride* by Jeffrey Hantover**

These suggested questions are to stimulate conversation and enhance your reading of *The Forenoon Bride*.

Q1: After reading the prologue of the book, what did you think this story is going to be about? Who did you think was speaking and why? When and where did you think the story takes place?

Q2: The book is first and foremost a narrative from Elizabeth's point of view. How does seeing things through her eyes shape the novel?

Q3: The falcon is an element that runs throughout the novel. What do you think it stands for and how does it connect with William's/Elizabeth's character? What does that say about them? How does this metaphor tie in with William's belief in honor and his later promise in the name of love? Look at the following excerpt:

'If you want a high-spirited bird but a well-tempered one, best to man a wild-caught haggard,' Jack told William. 'No food or sleep for her; I'll break her spirit, and then you'll see her pitch at the heavens and stoop like a thunderbolt.' [...] William knew from all Jack and his father had told him that she had to be broken, or she would leave her prey in mid-pursuit to chase after whatever bird crossed her path or caught her eye.

Q4: Without the imprisonment and torture that William went through in the Rhodesian prison, do you think he would have come back a changed man as he did after escaping prison and learning about his family? Why/why not? How did reading about his torture and time in solitary make you feel?

Q5: William is a man who takes his word/promises very seriously and directly connects it with a gentleman's honor. In light of this, why do you think he strays from his promise to Safiye and pursues Elizabeth?

Q6: Why do you think William chose to marry Safiye instead? Why do you think Safiye agreed to marry him when she wanted him to marry her out of love and not honor? Look at the following excerpt:

He loved her once. He would love her again. Someday William would love her for who she was and not what she had done for him. Someday he would love her more than his promise.

Q7: How important do you think the setting and time period of the book is to the story? Think about the love triangle taking place today. How do you think the story would have played out then? Would honor play a big factor in the final decision or would other values play a bigger role in today's matters of the heart?

Q8: How did you feel about the character of William? Could you empathise with his inner battle of love and honor and his final decision. Consider the time he is living in. How did you feel about Safiye and Elizabeth at the end?

Q9: Were you surprised about William's decision? How did you feel about it? How would you have chosen? Would you have wanted a different ending?

Q10: In what ways do you think *The Forenoon Bride* is a traditional romance book or not? What do you think the message of the book is?

Q11: Elizabeth and Safiye are both strong and brave women. What do you think was Elizabeth's and Safiye's strongest/bravest act?

Q12: What do you think would have happened if Safiye and Elizabeth would have gotten to talk to each other. What do you think would have been said between the two women?