

A Bride Most Begrudging Discussion Questions

Are there still marriages of convenience today? In America? What are some modern-day examples of marriages of convenience?

What character did you most relate to and why?

What was your favorite scene and why?

Drew's greatest fear was the possibility of losing any more loved ones. What did he do in order to protect himself from that fear? What do you do to protect yourself from your greatest fear?

Constance experienced culture shock upon arriving in the Virginia Colony. What is culture shock and have you ever experienced it or seen someone who did? What did you do to help acclimate yourself to the new environment?

Toward the end of the book Constance decided her education was worthless in the frontier. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Reviewers for *Bride* have either raved about the wonderful complexity of Gist's secondary characters (Josh, Mary, Sally) or complained loudly because they were one-dimensional or "cardboard" characters. Which did you think they were and why?

Some readers have complained about Mary's death at the end. They felt the book would have been better if she had lived. What do you think? Why do you think the author allowed Mary to die?

Was this book believable to you? Why or why not?

Constance felt that her self worth equated to her success (or failure) at the tasks set before her (be they domestic or intellectual). What is the danger of using success as a measuring stick for our self worth? What should our self worth be based on?

Additional Questions for Christian Groups:

When "for better" becomes "for worse," the richer become poorer, the health becomes sickness and we are simply too tired to deal with it anymore:

What is the ripple effect when we walk out the door?

What is the ripple effect if we stay married?

Is it worth it?

What characters in the Bible experienced circumstances so overwhelming they wanted to give up?

For those that DIDN'T give up, what might have happened if they HAD given up?

For those that DID give up, what might have happened if they HAD NOT given up?

Drew could only be released from his fear of losing his loved ones when he released those loved ones to Christ.

If you were to give your loved ones to Christ, what exactly would that mean?

How can giving Christ permission to take away our loved ones be freedom?

Fear was an idol for Drew. He lived in it, wallowed in it, served it. What are some of the idols we have (other than power, money, influence, approval and success)?

How do we tell when a valid desire of our heart becomes an idol?

How can we prevent this from happening?

On a piece of paper you won't share with anyone, list the 5 things in your life that are most important to you, from the greatest to the least. Be brutally honest.

On that same piece of paper make a pie chart illustrating how you spend your time each day.

Compare your actions with your list of what's most important to you. Do you have idols you didn't realize you had? (No need to share your answer. This one's between you and God.)