

A Change of Fortune Discussion Questions

1. Why do some people distance themselves from God, as Eliza did, when their lives are not going as planned?
2. Mr. and Mrs. Watson are relentless in their pursuit to obtain a husband for Agatha. Is their behavior justified? Should parents put pressure on their children to get married, get a job, have children, etc.?
3. Hamilton was very affected by his wife's behavior and subsequent death. Do you think he was truly able to come to peace with what happened to her? Have you ever had to come to terms with poor treatment from a friend or significant other?
4. Agatha has been forced to assume a man's name in order to publish her articles. How would you feel about having to pretend to be of the opposite gender to be taken seriously in a profession?
5. Eliza gave up a life as an English aristocrat to be with Hamilton. Will she have regrets? Would you give up your current life to do something completely different?
6. Hamilton and Eliza's friends and family continue to bring up the possibility of a relationship between the two of them. Did you or do you have friends who played or want to play matchmaker for you? Do you appreciate this or does it frustrate you? Why or why not?
7. Mr. Theodore Wilder is a man of his time and frequently frustrates the forward-thinking women in this story. Does he have any redeeming qualities?
8. Mr. Watson seems somewhat heartless at the beginning of the story. What caused him to change?
9. Does Lawrence deserve Mrs. Morgan?
10. Eliza rediscovers God in the midst of great anger. Why do you think He came back to her then? Is this something that has ever happened to you?