

COLORS OF TRUTH

Reading Guide Discussion Questions

Spoiler Alert: Questions contain key plot points to the story.



1. Before reading *Colors of Truth*, were you familiar with the discrimination of the Irish in nineteenth-century America? What was eye-opening for you about how Catriona and Nora were treated by certain townspeople or by the signs that, true to history, hung outside local businesses? Likewise, what did you know about the United States Secret Service and its history before reading Wade and Catriona's story?
2. Both Wade and Catriona suffered enormous losses. Sweet—and snarky—little Nora did too. The Word of God clearly states the truth that God is sovereign and that nothing touches our lives without first filtering through his loving hands. Why do you think God allows such pain and hardship to affect both believers and nonbelievers? (Read Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12.) Discuss the various trials faced by your favorite character in the story. How would you react if faced with a similar trial? How would you respond to Joni Eareckson Tada's statement, "God permits what he hates to achieve what he loves"?
3. The Bible teaches that the love of money is the root of all evil. Money plays a major part in this story—both the want of it and the lack. Discuss how Catriona's journey, in particular, is impacted by money. What struggles with money have you experienced? Could you relate to Catriona in this respect? If yes, how?
4. Catriona and Nora share a deep sisterly bond while also sharing a real love-hate relationship. Do you have a sister(s)? What relationships similar to this have you experienced? How did the widespread difference in the sisters' ages affect their relationship?
5. Wade and Catriona's love grows gradually throughout the story and takes several twists and turns along the way. It wasn't love at first sight. What are your favorite scenes in the novel pertaining to them as a couple? Do you prefer love stories where the characters slowly come to love each other—or "love at first sight" stories? And why?
6. Tempy, a beloved character in the Carnton novels, is based on the real woman who served as the McGavock family's cook for most of her life. Slavery is an abhorrent evil and strikes contrary to the

truth that all people are image-bearers of the living God. African people who were bought and sold during the transatlantic slave trade were robbed not only of their dignity but of their lives and their families. Were you aware that owners of slaves often changed a slave's name to better suit their personal likes? And that a slave searching for a family member after the Civil War stood little to no chance of ever finding them? Discuss Tempy's character and the outcome of her journey in this story.

7. The theme of lying runs throughout this novel. Lying is wrong. We learn that at a very young age. Why do you think we lie to each other? To ourselves? And even to God (although, good luck with this last one)? What lies have you told yourself? Do you ever hear whispered accusations, lies, in your heart? Read 1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 10:5 (along with other Scriptures group members may share) and discuss the temptation to lie versus the power a believer has to resist that temptation.
8. In the epilogue, we get a glimpse of the truths about God and the afterlife Catriona has learned in her journey. What are some of these truths? What do you believe about the afterlife? Read the various Scriptures Tempy read (from 2 Corinthians 5) and discuss what you believe the Bible teaches.

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