



1. Where do your sympathies lie in this novel? In what ways do the problems of the various members of the different classes (aristocratic, servant, and in-between) seem familiar or alien to life in the modern world?
2. What was life like for men and women at the turn of the twentieth century? How much has changed?
3. Minnie, unusual in her generation, has had some sexual experience. Do you think she's really shocked by Arthur's suggestion at the Inn, or is she just pretending? To what extent do you think the romance between Minnie and Arthur would work if it were updated to the twenty-first century?
4. Grace is a wonderfully independent spirit. She leaves the safety of her job and goes to Chicago with Mrs. O'Brien. How do you think she gets on over there? What sort of business would you set up if you were in Grace's shoes?
5. The argument against female suffrage at the time was that a) women always voted as their menfolk did, so what difference would it make? and b) even if women did vote independently, since they far outnumbered men in the population the results of any general suffrage would be unjustly skewed. What would Rosina's response to this have been?
6. Try to imagine these characters in a modern setting. For example, would Isobel still be a lady who lunches? Would Robert still be promoted in politics with the same ease as now? (Just a right word at the right time.) Would Arthur still be off with the ladies? What might Rosina be doing with her time and energy?

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## *Discussion Questions*



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