



1. What did you know about the treatment of madness in the nineteenth century before you started to read *Dangerous to Know*?
2. How does insanity affect families? Do they still deal with a sense of shame because of madness?
3. Are we, as a society, more enlightened today when it comes to how we judge individuals with mental disorders?
4. Are there some forms of madness that are more socially acceptable than others? If so, why is this?
5. Is there a touch of madness in everyone?
6. Mrs. Hargreaves's journal entries mark the first time in the series when we see someone else's view of Emily. Did her observations about her daughter-in-law change your view of Emily?
7. Do you believe it's possible to drive someone mad?
8. Who was your favorite character in the book, and why?
9. How is Lady Emily different from other woman of her era? Do you think she was "ahead of her time?" What do you see as her most and least admirable qualities? Take a moment to talk about women and their place in Victorian society.
10. How do women, in the past and today, find ways to be independent in restrictive societies?
11. To what extent do you think Tasha Alexander took artistic liberties with this work? What does it take for a novelist to bring a "real" period to life?

A Reading Group Guide

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