



1. *The Tudor Conspiracy* takes place in the winter leading up to the Wyatt Revolt of 1554. What did you discover about this event? Who were the major players and what were their motivations? Did you agree with the rebel's goals? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Religion plays a crucial role in this story's conflicts. How do Mary and Elizabeth Tudor embody their faiths' aspirations? Were their conflicts based on actual religious differences or on a larger power struggle? Do you see any parallels in today's religious divides?
3. Brendan Prescott is a fictional character with a secret. He comes to Mary's court to safeguard Elizabeth by becoming a double-agent. What were some of the challenges he faces in his dual role? Do you think he acted as he should have?
4. Illicit correspondence is a method of communication in the book, based on actual ways that prisoners in the Tower communicated with the outside. Why do you think Edward Courtney became involved with the schemes? Do you think he was a pawn or did he act out of choice? What are your impressions of Edward versus Robert Dudley? Which of them did you like or dislike more?
5. Sybilla is an enigmatic character who carries secrets of her own. Did you understand her reasons for doing what she did? What does her character tell us about the role of religious exiles and survivors of treason in the Tudor world?
6. Brendan sacrifices his secret and puts himself at risk for it. Why do you think he felt he had to confess? What were your impressions of his relationship with the queen? Do you think he liked her? What are some of his conflicts in terms of his service to Elizabeth and his own faith?

## Discussion Questions



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7. Whitehall, London Bridge, the Tower, taverns and brothels feature in the novel. What did you learn about these areas of Tudor London? What are some of the differences in how people lived? If you had to choose, where would you prefer to live and how would you make a living?
8. Elizabeth Tudor is one of history's most enduring figures but in this novel we see a different side of her. Did you agree with the author's depiction of her? Did you find her sympathetic? Would you have behaved as she had, given the choice?
9. Shocking revelations and events happen in the course of this story. Which did you find most unexpected? How do you think you would have reacted if you faced similar situations?
10. Who was your favorite character in the book, and why?

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