



1. What do you think Pauline Foster's early life might have been like to make her the way she was?
2. What do Zebulon Vance and Tom Dula have in common? How are they different?
3. The author has said that this true story of nineteenth century North Carolina mirrors *Wuthering Heights*. Can you find a passage in the novel that echoes *Wuthering Heights*?
4. Ann Melton tells a story from Tom's childhood about his rescuing his dog from a deep hole by the creek bed. How does this story foreshadow what Tom does at the end of the novel?
5. If Ann Melton had told this story, instead of Pauline, what might she have said?
6. How did Tom's experience at the POW camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, affect his actions in the novel?
7. Why do you think James Melton seems not to care about Ann's relationship with Tom?
8. How was the Civil War a factor in the events of this story?
9. In the local legends of the Tom Dula case, the storytellers portray Tom and Laura Foster as "Romeo & Juliet" lovers. Do you see any evidence of this? Why do you think people tell the story that way?
10. Discuss the pros and cons of the way Zebulon Vance handled the trial of Tom Dula and Ann Melton.
11. At the close of Tom Dula's second trial, Pauline Foster got married, and since her new last name is never given, researchers are unable to trace her. What do you think the rest of her life was like?
11. Should John Anderson have gone to the authorities and told them what he knew about the disappearance of Laura Foster? Why didn't he go west by himself after Laura died?

A
Reading
Group
Guide

For more reading group suggestions, visit
www.readinggroupgold.com.



St. Martin's
Griffin