



1. Margaret Powell was an actual kitchen maid and cook in some of the great houses of England, but there have been many *fictional* servants who put their mark on English literature. Which one was your favorite?
2. Margaret chronicles her first lavish dinner party in the Wardham house, a meal with eight courses. Have you ever eaten such a lavish meal and, if so, would you do it again? If you were asked to create a lavish meal today, how many courses would you include and what dish would be the centerpiece?
3. Was the romance of Rose and Gerald like that of Romeo and Juliet or was it different? If so, how?
4. Margaret at once realizes she can't really cook as well as she should when she gets to Kensington. Have you ever been in a position where you were hired for a job that you clearly were not capable of carrying out? If so, what did you do?
5. When Mary and Margaret meet Rose at her new home Melrose, they are on different sides of the servant/master divide. What must this have felt like for them?
6. Has Margaret Powell changed your idea of what servants were like in the era of the great English houses? If so, how?

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

A
Reading
Group
Guide



St. Martin's
Griffin