

A Vote of Confidence

Discussion Questions

1. Compare Gwen and Cleo. How are they alike, despite their outward appearances? Were you surprised to learn they did not grow up together? Why?
2. Morgan's mother is the reason he decides to build the New Hope health spa. How did Morgan's mother influence his perspective on life? How does her influence make him different from other men of his station?
3. How is Bethlehem Springs progressive when it comes to women's rights? How is it still old-fashioned? Which characters have strong opinions on what a woman's place in society should be? Do any of these characters change their minds by the end of the novel?
4. Gwen greatly dislikes gaining attention and flattery because of her beauty. Why is this? Do you feel this still occurs in today's culture? How does Cleo argue that it shouldn't bother Gwen as much as it does? Do you agree with her?
5. Harrison Carter endorses Gwen in her candidacy for mayor, but Gwen suspects his support isn't sincere. How does his treatment of her make her think this? How does his treatment of his wife support her theory? How does he underestimate both women by the end of the novel?
6. Morgan is constantly amazed by the sequence of events God uses to bring him to Bethlehem Springs and Gwen. Does Gwen feel the same way? Why does she fight her love for Morgan? When does she realize that being with Morgan may be God's will for her life?
7. While Gwen is praised for her beauty and grace, Cleo is often ridiculed and overlooked because of how she dresses and acts. Why is this? Is Cleo bothered by what others think of her? Do you think women today are still expected to look and act a certain way?
8. Describe Gwen's mother. What are her priorities in life? How does she view marriage and family? How do these priorities and views compare with those of Morgan's mother?
9. What causes Gwen to nearly break her engagement with Morgan? Do you think she is overreacting? How was Morgan wrong in what he did? How does their reconciliation show the importance of compromise?
10. Women's roles in society have drastically changed since the time period when this story takes place. What rights and roles do women have now that were unheard of even in a progressive town such as Bethlehem Springs? Are there areas of our society that still need improvement in regard to women's rights? Do you think it's possible to progress in these areas? How?