



1. When we first meet Caitlin, she believes she is better off handling her own problems, rather than depending on anyone else. How do you balance personal responsibility with leaning on others for support and wisdom?
2. Caitlin changed her appearance and behavior more than once in order to survive. When have you had to reinvent yourself to adjust to a new situation or environment?
3. Atlanta Mayor James Calhoun voted against secession, but when war broke out, his own son enlisted, and he did everything he could to support the Confederacy. Have you ever had to support a decision with which you didn't initially agree? What happened?
4. There had been a time when Edward Goodrich would have done anything to woo his wife. Later, he had to be reminded to brush his teeth. Why do you think we sometimes stop trying to impress those who matter most to us?

5. Ruby didn't tell Edward the truth about her past until someone else exposed her. Would you ever keep a secret from your loved one? Why or why not?
6. First John 4:18 says, "Perfect love casts out fear." What does this verse mean to you?
7. After his wedding, Edward discovered it was easier to minister outside his home than it was to tend his broken relationship with Ruby. Why do you think this was true?
8. Desperate for her mother's love, Ana grasped after Susan's affection, though Susan did not reciprocate. How important is parental approval to you?
9. The characters in this book felt loved through different expressions. Edward felt loved by physical touch. Ana craved time. What makes you feel most loved?
10. Noah felt torn between antislavery principles and an obligation to defend his homeland. When have you felt conflicted about something you did? How did you handle it?
11. If you were displaced from your home like the Southern refugees, and could only fill two suitcases from your home, what would you pack?
12. Noah juggled his duty to country with his duty to Ana, which included going AWOL. When have you had to reevaluate your priorities with work and family and make changes?
13. In what circumstances would it be more honorable to break the rules than to follow them?
14. Caitlin's loyalties and perspectives shifted during the story. What was the most surprising change of heart you've ever had?
15. The ideal woman in the antebellum South possessed qualities of amiability, piety, a desire to please others, cleanliness, neatness,

patience, industry, kindness, modesty, politeness, respect for elders, and obedience. How does this differ from today's standard of the ideal woman?

16. The Southern home front learned to live with far less than they had been accustomed to. What have you learned to live without? How did that affect you?
17. Vivian tells Caitlin, "Don't let that hope hold you captive. Move forward with your life." Have you ever been held captive by hope?
18. Caitlin struggled to wait on the Lord instead of just waiting for Noah. When have you had to wait on the Lord?
19. Ruby and Noah experienced prejudice because they were immigrants. How have you seen immigrants treated in your own community?
20. At both the start and the close of the book, Caitlin says, "This is not the end. It is only the beginning." When has one painful end in your life led to a new chapter?