



1. At the beginning of the book, Avie thinks she is going to go to college and perhaps fall in love. How has falling in love been changed by the Scarpanol disaster?
2. Avie's father surprises her by "Contracting" her into marriage. Why does he do it? Do you think he was right or wrong?
3. Avie thinks she has no choice but to honor the "Contract" and marry Jessop Hawkins, but Ms. Alexandra tells her she has several options. What choices does Avie have and which would you choose?
4. Avie's father keeps tabs on her in many ways. How does he monitor what she does? How would you feel about living like that?
5. Like lots of young men, Yates often expresses his feelings indirectly. What clues does Avie use to understand him?
6. Why do you think the Paternalists came to power? They say they want to protect American women. Do you think that is true or is it a lie?
7. Some say that characters have wounds that they struggle to heal in their journey through a story. What are Yates' wounds and is he healed in the end?
8. How do you think American men have been affected by the loss of their wives, daughters, sisters, aunts or mothers?
9. Yates, Father Gabriel, Sparrow and Maggie Stanton help the resistance in their own ways. Why did each join the movement and how do their reasons differ?

Discussion Questions



10. Avie compares Yates to Michelangelo's *David*. Why does she choose that statue? Do you think it works?
11. Father Gabriel tells Avie that even though the country's leaders are "playing chess with girls' lives....someone else whispers the moves as they play." What do you think he means by this?
12. As Avie disappears into Exodus, she is shocked that the Underground isn't the way Father Gabriel described. What big surprises does she have to deal with?
13. Avie's classmate, Sparrow, decides to set herself on fire on the steps of the Capitol building. Why does she do this? Are there things we don't know about her?
14. At what point does Avie decide to support the revolution? What motivates her?
15. Avie volunteers to go for help during the armed siege in Salvation. Why does she do it? What would you do?
16. At the beginning of the book, Avie says, "I'm not fearless, but I loved how he called me that." At the end, she says, "I am fearless." How has she changed?
17. What do you believe will happen to Avie next?
18. The author wanted to write a book that when people finished reading it, they would say, "I think that could really happen." What parts of the story feel real to you? What do you feel might happen if the U.S. lost a large number of women?

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