

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS FOR *THE PRICE OF COMPASSION*

1. Tom Justice makes more than a dozen decisions that profoundly impact the course of his life. How many can you name, and which one (s) can you most relate to?
2. Early on, Tom is told that sometimes it's okay to let others win. He doesn't agree, feeling it's akin to cheating. What is your philosophy about purposefully letting others win when there might be "other things to consider"?
3. What do you think was in the elixir that Tom gave his grandmother just before she died? What do you think he thought was in it?
4. Tom Justice isn't perfect. He commits a number of "offenses" that others disapproved of—as a boy, as a teenager, and as a man. Imagine yourself a juror in his murder trial. Would those dings on his character have affected your verdict? Why or why not?
5. Once again, you're a juror. Would you have agreed or disagreed with the actions Tom took and his attitude toward his decision? Explain.
6. It is one thing to agree in principle with a course of action; quite another to undertake it yourself. What would *you personally* have done had you been in Tom's place that fateful day in the Mechanics' Pavilion?
7. If you'd found yourself facing *Eli's* predicament after the earthquake, what would you have done?
8. Who do you think had more control in the relationship between Kit and Tom, and why?
9. Do you think Carina still loved Tom more than she loved her husband?
10. The field of "neurasthenia" postulated that a wide variety of ailments (e.g., migraines, skin diseases, drug dependency) have their roots in our "advanced" western society. Given that medical issues like those appear to be more prevalent than ever in our culture, what do you think accounts for them?
11. Why did Tom's hand start shaking? Why do you think it stopped?
12. Do you think it was a good idea for Tom to perform the final operation of the story? Why or why not?