



Book Club Questions
Peregrine Hill by Nina de Gramont

1. Isabelle forces Mariah to marry the much older John Whitten to keep the family out of poverty. Did you empathize with her desperation after losing her husband and three children or find it unforgivable?
2. How does Mariah rebel against Whitten's strict control, and what did you think of her method of writing stories only to burn them?
3. When Hetty finds Mariah's secret writing, she encourages her to publish using a pseudonym. How does storytelling help Mariah change from a victim of her situation into someone who controls her own future?
4. How do Mariah and Hetty's differences influence their views on freedom and ambition? Who do you think risks more?
5. How did your view of Lavinia shift throughout the novel? In what ways does her character highlight the brutal commodification of women during the Gilded Age?
6. How does the book navigate the hypocrisy of Gilded Age high society, where a man's reputation remains untouched while a woman's can be permanently ruined by a single "indiscretion"?
7. How does the novel show Mariah's fight for independence compared to Isabelle's struggle with deep grief, especially when Isabelle makes reckless choices like having a romantic affair?
8. The estate itself, Peregrine Hill, operates almost like a character in the novel. How does the house's physical setting reflect the emotional atmosphere of the people living inside it?
9. Mariah believes that only Whitten's death will truly free her. Did you find the novel's conclusion satisfying? Do you think Mariah, Hetty, and Isabelle truly achieved the freedom they fought for?

Book club questions by Princeton Book Review.