



Discussion Questions

The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 1
by Beth Brower

1. Emma is sharp, observant, and often very honest in her journal. Did you find her completely reliable as a narrator, or do you think her perspective is sometimes limited or biased?
2. The journal format makes the story feel very personal. How did this style affect your connection to Emma compared to a traditional novel?
3. Emma often pushes against the expectations placed on women in her time. In what ways does she conform, and in what ways does she quietly rebel?
4. Emma values independence and intellectual life over romance (at least initially). Do you think this separates her from typical heroines in historical fiction?
5. There are small mysteries embedded in the story (like the tenant or the rumored Roman figure). How do these elements affect the tone and pacing of the book?
6. Friendship plays an important role, especially in contrast to family obligations. Which relationships stood out to you the most, and why?

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