

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Soon by Charlotte Grimshaw

1. Considering what you've just read, why is the novel titled *Soon*?
2. Discuss the significance of the sub-story, the fantasy, that Mrs. Hallwright tells her son, in which Soon is a main character.
3. What is the novel really about, aside from Simon's past infidelity and the murder of Arthur Weeks?
4. Why is Simon unhappy? In what ways does he demonstrate this?
5. Why does Karen show interest in David Hallwright, and Simon in Roza, though there are others to choose from at the prime minister's house? Are the feelings genuine or strategic?
6. Do you feel that Simon Lampton is telling the truth about what happened in the past with Mereana and his encounter with Arthur Weeks? Do you believe him to be reliable, especially considering what he stands to lose?
7. The phrase "Increase your tolerance to uncertainty" appears several times in the novel. What do you think this means?
8. Why does Simon keep dreaming of his brother Ford's ex-wife, May?
9. What role does Ford play in the novel? He can't stand the Hallwrights, he says, so why does he decide to stay with them?
10. How does Simon and Ford's past with their father, Aaron, affect Simon now?

11. Roza Hallwright tells Simon: "In our household, everything is a strategy." What strategies do you see employed by characters in this novel, and for what end?

12. What did you think of the phone call that Simon receives from Mereana at the end of the novel?