



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Song Weaver- The Mountain Song Legacy- Book 3

by B.J. Hoff

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1. As a young newlywed, Maggie MacAuley Stuart struggles with feelings of inadequacy about her new role in life. What are her principal concerns, and how does Jonathan help her to deal with them?
2. What accounts for Maggie's feelings of guilt in regard to her sister, Eva Grace? Are those feelings reasonable or without basis? Has there ever been a time when you suffered from feelings of guilt that you sensed might be irrational, yet you couldn't completely dismiss them?
3. What did Jonathan attempt to convey in his brief message about Eva Grace's "Graduation Day?"
4. What was Kate MacAuley's ultimate comfort after such a devastating loss? What are some of the sources of comfort and strength God gives to us to bring healing and renewal after a tragedy?
5. More than once, Jonathan indicates the comfort and contentment he finds in simple things, such as a cozy kitchen and the nearness of his family. What everyday things bring you this sense of well-being and contentment?
6. Tiny Gracie seems to attract two self-appointed, albeit somewhat unlikely, "guardians." Who are they? Have you or your loved ones ever benefitted from the attentions and care provided by such implausible "protectors?"
7. Why does Jonathan initially react as he does to the return of Kenny Tallman to Skingle Creek? When Maggie realizes the basis for his peculiar behavior, how does she respond? What example does she use to convince her husband that he's being unreasonable?
8. In many states, married women were not allowed to teach in the public school system until well after the turn of the century, some as late as the 1930s. What was the rationale for the law prohibiting their presence in the classroom? Do you agree with it?

9. What accounts for the “softening” of Judson Tallman’s nature? Have you witnessed similar personality changes in acquaintances or family members? Were the changes lasting, and how did they affect others among loved ones or professional colleagues?
10. What do you believe to be responsible for Matthew MacAuley’s distrust of and resistance to Dr. Sally Gordon as a physician? What brings about the change in his attitude?
11. A difference in age factors into the marriage of Jonathan and Maggie Stuart, as well as that of Kenny and Anna Tallman. Most readers see this as a natural event, especially for that particular era and cultural setting. What are your thoughts on the logical patterns of courtship in such a time and place, and what do you think the most significant element might be to make such relationships successful?
12. Why do you believe Matthew MacAuley decides to go along with Jonathan’s “far-fetched idea” for a group of singing miners? Why would a man like Matthew take an interest in such an unlikely venture, one that, on the surface, seems destined to fail?
13. What do you believe motivates Richard Barlow to demand custody of Eva Grace’s child? As the biological father, does he have the right to raise Gracie?
14. Maggie’s farewell to her teaching position at the school that has been such an important part of her life is exceedingly difficult. What makes it possible for her to accept this turn of events without bitterness, even though she doesn’t necessarily agree with the law that makes it compulsory?
15. Who is the Song Weaver? What accounts for the title?

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