

# LADIES OF THE HOUSE

LAUREN EDMONDSON

Reader's Guide



1. Discuss the plot differences between *Ladies of the House* and Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. How does Lauren Edmondson's novel update Jane Austen's?
2. What do you think Jane Austen might say about the society in which Daisy and Wallis operate? What has or has not changed for women since the Austen era?
3. Did you understand Daisy's justifications for not initially going public about her father's behavior?
4. Did you think Daisy's ultimate decision to speak out was the right move? Why or why not? What might you have done in her situation?
5. How did you feel about Wallis at the beginning of the novel versus the end? Do you think she grew as a character? In what way?
6. Daisy at first has trouble accepting Blake because of his family's actions. Is this something you have ever faced in your own life? Can you separate a person from their beliefs?
7. Toward the end of the novel, Daisy tells Blake Darley: "You think you're something special, don't you? You think you're unique. But you're just one of the millions in this town who will regularly choose power above all." Is this a fair assessment of him? Or did you have more sympathy for Blake?
8. As parents, how are Gregory Richardson, Cricket Richardson, Melinda Darley, and Judge Collette Reed similar and/or different?
9. Which character(s) did you most identify with in the novel? Why?
10. How can society better support women and raise up their voices?