

AN HOUR UNSPENT

Discussion Questions

1. Barclay, by the time the book opens, has moved from a life of thieving to one of “approved” government work. In his position, would you have trouble reconciling your sanctioned work with your new faith? What do you think of the journey he took from childhood to where he is now? How did your understanding of the man he’s become change throughout the story?
2. Evelina has a core of strength and independence, but vulnerabilities too. What do you think of her causes? The reasons for them? Do you empathize with her struggle to really feel, or did that baffle you?
3. What did you think of the connection between Barclay and Evelina? Did anything about the progression of their relationship surprise you? Frustrate you? Make you happy?
4. What historical aspects did you find most interesting—clockmaking, the advance of the wristwatch, the world’s first aerial raids, the transport of basic food supplies past the front lines?
5. Family is a huge theme of the book. What do you think of the different views represented by the Mannings and Barclay’s clan? What are your thoughts on what family should be?
6. What did you think of Basil and his reasons for ending the engagement? Were you surprised by the note he left for Evelina?
7. Who was your favorite character? What made them stand out to you? Your least favorite? Why?
8. Did you find Evelina’s reaction to the news from Basil to be understandable? Frustrating? What about Barclay’s response to her?
9. We finally learn more about Mr. V and get a glimpse into his life. Was he what you expected?
10. What were your thoughts on the conclusion, both of the story and the series? Where do you think the family will go from here?

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