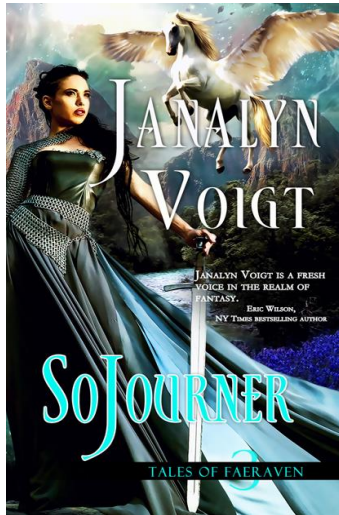


## Discussion Questions

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Also Available in Paperback:

### **SOJOURNER**

Tales of Faeraven

Author: Janalyn Voigt

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### **About the Book**

Mara didn't know her parents were living a lie.

After learning a secret that causes Mara to question her heritage, she runs to Torindan, the High Hold of Faeraven, to seek the truth. What the innkeeper's daughter doesn't know is that Rand, the mysterious tracker she's hired to guide her through the wilderness, has been sent on an errand that puts her life at risk.

Helping Mara furthers Rand's purposes, but he doesn't count on his emotions interfering.

With Faeraven on the brink of war, Rand is faced with a life-altering choice, Mara is torn between escape and learning the truth, and the future hangs in the balance.

Will Mara be heir to the Faeraven throne? Can Rand escape the terrors of the dungeon?

As Torindan and Pilaer prepare for battle, anything can happen.

TITLE: Sojourner

Discussion:

Question 1: What factors weighed into Mara's decision to run away from home?

Answer 1: Heddwyn's ambitions, Brynn's criticisms, and Quinn's deference caused Mara to fear being pressured into an unwelcome marriage. She felt betrayed and angry after learning the circumstances of her birth. Curiosity about her natural father and her long-held interest in the Kindren made going to Torindan appealing. Rand's professed occupation as a tracker seemed to provide a way to carry out her wishes.

Question 2: What might have turned out differently if Mara had communicated better when she wanted to run away?

Answer 2: She could possibly have conveyed her objections to marrying and been allowed to continue living at the inn. Confronting Brynn would have shown her aunt's unkindness up and paved the way for her parents to defend Mara more. She wouldn't have hurt Hael by lying to him and avoided having to apologize later. The ability to articulate her hurt and anger would have cleared the air for explanations and apologies.

Question 3: How would you respond to the news your parents weren't your own?

Answer 3: Each person would have a different reaction, but people who find out in adulthood that they were adopted as children commonly report feeling sick, shocked, bewildered, angry, betrayed, and alienated. One woman who learned about her adoption as an adult describes the sensation like standing with her back to the edge of a cliff. She states that everything in her life felt like a lie, and she literally didn't know who she was.

Question 4: How did Draeg's beatings shape Rand's thinking?

Answer 4: They reinforced to Rand that he was not as powerful as his brother, and therefore lacking. The culture in which he grew up valued strength over the agility Rand displayed. His father starved him for affection based on his "weakness." His mother was a powerless figure. All of this set up his desire to please his father, prove his half-brother's taunts wrong, and somehow better his mother's situation by becoming a warrior. achieve equality to his brother by proving himself a warrior. It also caused him to discount his more tender leanings.

Question 5: Why did Rand abandon Mara in the wilderness?

Answer 5: Rand had lost control of himself when he'd kissed her. This startled him and made him wonder how much control he had over his baser urges. He feared he could violate her honor if he remained with her. He was confused about what to do with her since discovering that he couldn't kill her, and thought she was better off without him. He had thought she would be forced to return to the inn without his assistance. He later regretted his decision and apologized to Mara for abandoning her.

Question 6: Why did Arillia reject Mara?

Answer 6: Arillia was the wife Elcon's parents had chosen for him, but his passion for Aewen interfered with these plans. From Arillia's perspective, Elcon left for the Elder lands with the promise to court her but returned betrothed to someone else. She eventually forgave Elcon for betraying her, but her wounds went deep. She lost confidence and began to question her own worth, especially since she couldn't seem to bear a child. She already shared her husband with his guilt over Aewen's death. Encountering Aewen and Elcon's child is like coming face-to-face with her own perceived inadequacies.

Question 7: Was Elcon sympathetic enough towards Arillia?

Answer 7: Elcon's focus on his guilt over Aewen and the loss of his daughter made him somewhat insensitive to Arillia, although perhaps not to the degree she believed. If he had pushed past his own pain to reach out to her, he could have avoided much of her unhappiness and his resulting frustration.

Question 8: Why did Mara agree to become Heir of Faeraven?

Answer 8: On the surface, she wanted to comfort her father. Deep down, she yearned to fit in, to belong.

Question 9: Why did Emmerich refuse to come when summoned by Elcon?

Answer 9 Emmerich, who symbolizes Jesus, had other ideas about how to save the Kindren. Overcoming the enemy in the same way He had before wouldn't have called for as much faith. God wants us to trust Him completely, not in our ability to command Him to save us. Besides, the people of Elderland had reached a different place on their road to unity. He knew that their joining together to repudiate evil would cause old wounds to heal.

Question 10: Traelein's fears came upon her when she refused to run past the fire. Can you name something in your own life that seems equally overwhelming?

Answer 10: The responses will vary, but the answer to each one is the same. Trust in God. Trust in His kindness and you won't be disappointed. Rely upon His sustenance and He will give it. Wait for His guidance and you will receive it.

