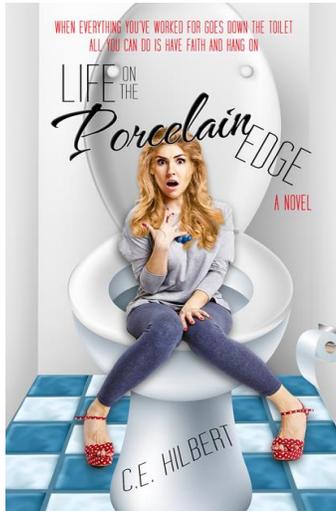


Discussion Questions



LIFE ON THE PORCELAIN EDGE

Gibson's Run

Author: C.E. Hilbert

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About the Book

Tessa Tarrington's life is swirling out of control. No job. No apartment. Sick Dad...And she's back in high school!

Teaching at her Gibson's Run alma mater would be tolerable, except she's sharing purgatory with her mortal enemy, Ryland Jessup. But eight years post-high-school, and after tragedies she can barely understand, Ryland no longer fits her mental image of the over-sized bully he was when they were growing up. In fact, much to her disgust, with each passing day, he's finding his way into her heart.

Ryland Jessup is slowly pulling the pieces of his life together. After the sudden death of his wife, he hung up his professional shoulder pads and picked up a whistle. Now he's focused on coaching the high school football team and raising his daughter. The sudden return of his childhood crush, Tessa Tarrington, has reawakened long-ago feelings. But if God's giving him a second chance to impress Tessa, the Man Upstairs has a funny way of showing it. Just when Tessa starts to lighten up, Ryland's best friend returns.

Will the always-irresistible Joey Taylor stifle any hope Ryland has to ignite the dream of a relationship with Tessa?

TITLE: Life on the Porcelain Edge

Discussion:

Question 1: 1. At the opening of the story, Tessa faces numerous obstacles. How have you found ways to endure when tragic moments seem to derail your journey?

Answer 1:

Question 2: 2. Ryland is trying to move forward with his life, following in his dad's footsteps and leaving his wife's death and betrayal in the past. How did he struggle with his transition? Where did he succeed?

Answer 2:

Question 3: Joey showed signs early on of struggling, but his friends and family let it pass. Why was the confronting his issues such a challenge for Ryland and his family?

Answer 3:

Question 4: 4. How do you think the terrible, awful day impacts Tessa's ability to build relationships and try in her career?

Answer 4:

Question 5: 5. "'From where I sit, you've tried to make your life mistake-proof.' His voice [Ryland] was a deep whisper. 'Mistakes are a part of life. How we respond to the mistakes determines how well we live our lives. You've an extraordinary opportunity to respond with all of the grace and beauty God poured into your spirit. You just have to choose.'" One of Tessa's lifelong struggles is with the need to be "mistake-proof". How do you see this as a common thread throughout the story? Is she able to shake her perfectionism or does she continue to try to be perfect regardless of what this longing costs her?

Answer 5:

Question 6: 6. How does Ryland's marriage to Macy influence his ability to create new relationships? What impact does her infidelity have on Ryland's view of himself? How does it shadow his view of Joey? How do his experiences with his wife cloud his relationship with Tessa? How could he have avoided the complications in his relationships?

Answer 6:

Question 7: 7. Tessa weighs the pros and cons of nearly every situation. How does this approach benefit her in her relationships? How does it challenge her ability to move forward?

Answer 7:

Question 8: 8. How does Tessa's tendency to hide from difficult situations impact her ability to make a choice between Ryland and Joey or make choices about her career?

Answer 8:

Question 9: Both Tessa and Ryland have solid relationships with God, yet they naturally tend to turn away from Him when they struggle with life. Tessa runs. Ryland judges. How does their transformation and their forgiveness process reflect their deepening trust in the Lord?

Answer 9

Question 10: 10. Tessa has an intuitive nature. She can sense that something is wrong with Joey and understands the core of her obstacles with Ryland. How is she able to use her intuition? How does her lack of self-awareness challenge her ability to help others?

Answer 10:

