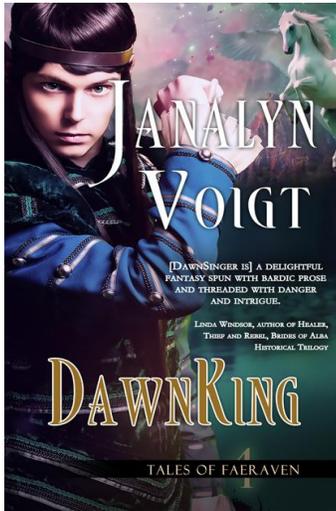


Discussion Questions



DAWNKING

Tales of Faeraven #4

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ISBN (e): [9781522302056](#)

ISBN (tp): 9781522302070

Imprint: Harbourlight Books

Publisher: [Pelican Book Group](#)

Pages: 342

eBook SRP: 5.99

Also Available in Paperback:

About the Book

A prince marked for death, a princess without a kingdom, and a world at war.

Unlikely travelers band together to accomplish the impossible—bring peace to their kingdom. But traitorous forces are at work, and a treacherous hand is destroying everything they accomplish.

Honor and soul-searching bring the travelers to hidden truth, and when a sacrifice is made, the broken-hearted band of misfits must cleanse the evil from their midst to free their world...or lose everything.

TITLE: DawnKing

Discussion:

Question 1: Did Kai and Aerlic make the right choice when they decided not to defend those fleeing from Torindan?

Answer 1: They agonized over this decision, but trying to help would bring about their own deaths and prevent them from helping Faeraven at all. Have you also had to make a hard decision for the greater good?

Question 2: Should Mara have trusted Rand's guidance instead of searching for a better way to Cobbleford?

Answer 2: When Mara ignored Rand's advice and set off to search for a better way for Cobbleford on her own, she set off an unfortunate chain of events. Choosing to trust him might have saved both Mara and Rand a lot of grief. There's a spiritual parallel here. Sometimes we want to find our own way in life when the one before us seems too difficult. When that happens, God asks us to rely on His protection and guidance.

Question 3: Could Rand have done anything to help Mara trust him?

Answer 3: He could have been more patient with her and comforted her fears instead of taking her insistence on finding another way as a personal affront. Is there someone you know who needs your understanding in a similar way?

Question 4: Who is caught daydreaming in the story?

Answer 4: In the outlaw camp, when Trader asks if he ever daydreams, Rand replies that he hasn't since his early days (the Kindren way of saying childhood). "That's where you've gone wrong," Trader responds. When was the last time you daydreamed?

Question 5: Kai suffers a lot of guilt for what he considers his failures. Does he deserve all the blame he lays on himself?

Answer 5: Kai's excessive sense of responsibility is both his defining strength and greatest weakness. He has a hard time accepting that he can't be everywhere to protect those he loves. His attitude partly stems from the pride of being an excellent guardian, but mostly it comes from conscientiousness. Perhaps the life with Shae that he plans will temper his perfectionism. Do you have similar tendencies?

Question 6: Caerla feels that God sent Mara to Cobbleford in order to give her a second chance to help her sister. Is this attitude realistic?

Answer 6: Even allowing that God sometimes brings such things about, Caerla's assumption is somewhat self-focused. She wants to use Mara's presence at the abbey as a way to redeem herself for rejecting her sister. This causes her to do the right things but for selfish motives.

Caerla still has a way to go to lose herself in love for others, but to her credit, she's trying. God gives her a golden opportunity when she looks after her mother out of selfless love and compassion.

Question 7: How does the story explore Mara's concept of home?

Answer 7: Mara sympathizes with Nadya over having no home, but realizes that she herself is the one without a home. Later, she understands that a 'home' is more about belonging with people you care about than an actual place. This frees her at the end of the book to discuss the possibility of a life of wandering with Rand.

Question 8: Rand tried to surrender himself to the Feiann in exchange for Elcon, but he was not worthy. Only Emmerich (who represents Jesus Christ) could. What did it take for Rand to watch Emmerich suffer and die?

Answer 8: Rand's failure in his own power to save Elcon actually set him up to accept Emmerich's sacrifice. He had to see his own unworthiness to understand his need of a Savior.

Question 9: When the prison doors open during the earthquake, Barrett refuses to leave and even shuts himself in again. Can you think of something on a spiritual level to which this might relate?

Answer 9 I wanted to show the effects of bondage to sin with this allegory. Giving over control to something or someone else can cause us to actually fear and reject the freedom God freely offers us.

Question 10: Why does Rand see his brother Draeg's face in place of his own in the Pool of Truth?

Answer 10: Draeg represents the sinful nature we inherit due to Adam and Eve's fall. Rand harbored the idea that he was better than his sinful brother. Draeg's nature was baser, and he indulged himself more. Rand had the saving grace of a compassionate nature. And yet, he needed a Savior.

