

Discussion Questions for A BAD DEAL IN MORMON LAND

1. *A Bad Deal in Mormon Land* follows the stories of multiple characters. Which did you find more or less sympathetic? How did the characters' interactions with each other affect the way you thought about them?
2. Were there moments in this novel that surprised you? If so, which ones?
3. Roger Marsh has a small but devoted band of followers supporting his breakaway sect. Why do you think they follow him? What's Roger Marsh's potential appeal as a leader?
4. While tending to her dying mother, Francie Bream learns a shocking family secret. Have you ever learned something about your family that surprised you? How did it change the way you thought about your family or yourself?
5. The story takes place in 1908, a time period not commonly featured in books, TV, and movies. How familiar were you with this time period? What was your community like in 1908? How might you find out?
6. What similarities and differences do you see between the time period depicted in the novel and the present day?
7. What role does disappointment play in the lives of the different characters in the novel? How does each character respond to the disappointment they experience?
8. Why do you think Francie Bream tracks down Madame Ilsa to help her after the disastrous seance?
9. The final chapter focuses on two of the main characters: Madame Ilsa von Hoffmann and Diantha Marsh. How would you compare and contrast the actions and character of these two women throughout the novel?
10. Diantha Marsh asks Francie Bream if it's ever justifiable to do harm in the service of the greater good. What do you think? How might each of the characters respond?