



Discussion Guide for *The Mysteries of Marquette*

1. *The Mysteries of Marquette* is full of moral quandaries for its characters. In which cases did you approve or disapprove of a character's decision? Could you relate to any of these quandaries?
2. Whether or not you approve of his methods, do you feel the Marquis de Marquette was justified in his desire for revenge?
3. Do you think Edmund was momentarily insane when he murdered his father, or do you think he acted solely out of his own interests? Did you get the sense that he had any regrets?
4. If you were Alice, what would you have done differently? (Ask yourself the same question about other characters, such as Melanie, Lucinda, and Father Rodin.)
5. What examples of prejudice, racism, or discrimination exist in the novel? In what ways were the social mores of the time detrimental to the characters?
6. The novel is set in 1908. How do you think it might have been different if set in the present day?
7. Lonely and needy people are often easy to prey upon and manipulate. Do you think Carolina Smith was naïve to be so easily misled by Rainier, or was her behavior understandable?
8. Carolina Smith has appeared in many previous Marquette novels (*Iron Pioneers*, *The Only Thing That Lasts*, *When Teddy Came to Town*, and *Odin's Eye*). She is depicted as mean and unlikable in those novels. Do you feel she shows any redeeming qualities in *The Mysteries of Marquette*?
9. Which characters did you sympathize with? Why?
10. Were any of the characters beyond your sympathy?
11. Why do you think the people of Marquette were so easily taken in by the marquis?
12. Did the characters and setting feel real to you? In what ways did the author make the story come to life?