

Book Club Questions—*Duty to the Crown*

1. We open with Manon's forced re-entry into French society when the tenant farmer discovers her gathering get herbs. Why do you feel she was so reluctant to tell the man about her connection to the landlord?
2. Why does Claudine find herself so frequently frustrated with Emmanuelle? How do you think Emmanuelle feels about Claudine's treatment of herself and others?
3. Gabrielle has lived as a sort of adopted daughter of the Beaumont family for many years, but doesn't fully part of the family. How does this manifest itself and why is this the case?
4. Sometimes the treatment of Manon by the townspeople is clearly hostile, but do you feel some of the mistreatment is imagined or exaggerated--even preemptively--by Manon? Is her hypersensitivity warranted?
5. We see Claudine begin to evolve from her self-possessed ways throughout the course of the book. What do you think is the turning point (or points), and what motivates her to change?
6. Why does Gabrielle accept marriage to Patenaude? Do you think her past made her more likely to accept his offer? Why do you feel she had resisted courting in general?
7. What inspires Claudine to tell the truth to Laurent about her reasons for not devoting herself to her marriage entirely?
8. Do you think Manon's hesitance to form a real relationship with Pascal is justified? How does Pascal's pursuit of Manon differ from Heno's?
9. Gabrielle's tryst with René was exceedingly risky to her already precarious social status. Why do you think she chose to take the risk, considering the potentially disastrous consequences?
10. Why does Claudine insist on helping at her parents' farm herself rather than sending (possibly more capable) help?
11. What does Gabrielle mending business represent, as well as her move to Ville-Marie? What do you think was the catalyst that allowed her to accept the possibility of a new life?

12. Does Manon succeed completely in finding a life among the French that allows her to embrace her native heritage? Do you think her ultimate decisions will allow her to be happy?