

WISDOM'S DAUGHTER Reading Group Guide:

1. Who was Abishag, and why does she play such an integral part in the story? What was her relationship to King David, King Solomon, Queen Michal, and Princess Baalit?
2. What are the advantages of Sheba being a matriarchy? What are the disadvantages? How do they compare to those of nations ruled by men, rather than by women?
3. What had the Israelites given up to gain a king? In exchange what did the king bring them?
4. Consider Solomon's attitude toward his heir, Rehoboam. Was he right or wrong to allow this unsuitable son to inherit to avoid competition among his other sons?
5. Why does Bilqis, the Queen of Sheba, hide her real reason in coming to King Solomon's court? How does her attitude towards Solomon change once she reveals her true purpose to him? How does his change towards her?
6. Why does Rehoboam hate Baalit so? What does the incident of the cat reveal? What were his plans for Baalit when he eventually became king? Do you believe her life was really endangered?
7. What is the catalyst that makes Baalit begin to look at her father's wives and realize they are not all content? What does she find?
8. What was the significance of the ivory spindle? How did it reappear after being lost for so many years?
9. Who are Moonwind, Shams, and Uri? What do you think they represent to Baalit? How is Uri endangered by Baalit? Why?
10. Why did Baalit request the Lady Helike accompany her to Sheba? What was King Solomon's reaction to Baalit's request?
11. Do you believe that Baalit will eventually marry Rahbarin? Why?
12. Why do you believe Nikaulis turned back to remain with Benaiah? What were her plans thereafter?
13. What did King Solomon really learn from his foster mother, Queen Michal? What did Baalit really learn from her father, King Solomon?
14. The author says that Queen Michal forged Solomon into a king who was "human fire and royal ice." Which other characters fit that description?
15. The narrative says, "Love, honor, duty, -- even wisdom, in the end, must yield to that." Which characters yielded to "love, honor, and duty?" Which characters did not?
16. Baalit says, "...all women and all men are different -- and they all are the same. Some would be happy anywhere, and some happy nowhere." Do you think this is true? What lessons are there in this book for today's women?