

***Surrender the Heart* – Discussion questions by M.L. Tyndall**

1. In the story, Marianne Denton described herself as plain, ordinary, and lacking in charm. Can you relate? Have you ever felt as though you didn't measure up to the world's standards, either in looks or ability? If so, what impact did Marianne's story have on you?
2. As the story progressed, what qualities did Noah admire in Marianne? And what did his growing appreciation of her inner beauty do to his assessment of her outer appearance? Do you think it's possible that someone we normally would find unappealing could become beautiful after we get to know them?
3. Suicide is a terrible thing that often destroys the lives of those left behind. In Marianne's case, how did her father's suicide affect her? How did it make her feel? How did it affect her relationship with God? What did Marianne eventually come to realize?
4. What tremendous burden did Noah carry around with him? How did it affect his life and his decisions? Do you have some deed in your past that continually causes you guilt? If so, how do you think it affects the way you live? How did Noah eventually get rid of his burden?
5. How did Noah's father use Noah's guilt to his advantage? Do you know of any people who do the same either in your own life or the lives of your friends? What do you think is the best way to deal with this?
6. Do you have a fear of something? A fear of water, heights, death, closed-in-spaces, clowns? Where do you think that fear came from? What is the opposite of fear? What eventually caused Marianne to overcome her fear of the sea?
7. In the book, Marianne thought all British were bad and Noah believed they were all good. What happened to change both their perspectives? Have you ever believed something about a certain class or race of people and then discovered your error later on?
8. Do you believe God gives the gift of prophecy to some people today? Have you ever received a Word from God about the future, even a promise? Why do you think Daniel had such strong faith?
9. I loved Blackthorn's character. Why do you suppose he had a weaker faith than his son? Did his faith change throughout the story and if so, how and why?
10. What caused Captain Milford to be so morose and volatile? Do you think it's possible to miss God's calling on your life even if you're a Christian? How? What was the effect on Captain Milford? How could he have avoided it?
11. Do you believe that God has a purpose for your life, a destiny He wants you to fulfill? If so, what did Marianne have to do first before she could ever begin to fulfill that destiny? And what did Noah have to do?
12. After both Noah and Marianne surrendered to God and realized what their destiny was, how did that realization make them feel? Do you believe that God's destiny for you will be something you get excited about, or do you think it will be pure drudgery?

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2