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# Lady in the Mist: The Midwives, Book 1

by Laurie Alice Eakes

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## About the Book

By virtue of her profession as a midwife, Tabitha Eckles is the keeper of many secrets: the names of fathers of illegitimate children, the level of love and harmony within many a marriage, and now the identity of a man who may have caused his wife's death. Dominick Cherrett is a man with his own secret to keep: namely, what he, a British nobleman, is doing on American soil working as a bondsman in the home of Mayor Kendall, a Southern gentleman with his eye on a higher office.

By chance one morning before the dawn has broken, Tabitha and Dominick cross paths on a misty beachhead, leading them on a twisted path through kidnappings, death threats, public disgrace, and?love? Can Tabitha trust Dominick? What might he be hiding? And can either of them find true love in a world that seems set against them?

With stirring writing that puts readers directly into the story, **Lady in the Mist** expertly explores themes of identity, misperception, and love's discovery.

## Discussion Guide

1. In Chapter 1, Tabitha daydreams of something she desperately wants but thinks she will never have. What are your dreams? How would faith in God helped Tabitha have hope of seeing her dreams fulfilled?
2. Dominick is an indentured servant, a form of short-term slavery. Is only his body enslaved, or are his heart and soul under bondage, too?

3. In Chapter 3, Raleigh returns to Tabitha after having abandoned her years before, and wants to renew a relationship with her. Would you have reacted as Tabitha does, or in an entirely different manner? If differently, how would you treat someone who hurt you deeply?
4. Tabitha bears heart wounds that keep her separated from God. What heart wounds have separated you from the Lord's love and Grace?
5. Being a midwife sets Tabitha apart from other women and makes her feared by some men. Would you have the courage to be a near outcast for the sake of your vocation?
6. In chapters 1 and 8 we find Dominick on the beach when he isn't supposed to be. Although he has a mission to complete, does the ends, the good of many, justify the means of him violating his master's orders? Does any duty justify breaking the law?
7. Tabitha holds a secret that will ruin her ability to continue practicing midwifery if she keeps quiet, and break people's trust in her integrity if she gives it away to save herself. How would you react in similar circumstances?
8. In Chapter 22, Danger strikes Tabitha and Dominick. Who do you think the intended victim was and why?
9. In Chapter 26, Tabitha makes two important choices. What are their significance to her future? If you knew you could lose everything you want with the choices you make, how would you have decided to act? As Tabitha does, or would you go in another direction?
10. Throughout the story, Raleigh claims to be a Christian, yet his actions rarely reflect this claim. Are any of his actions, especially aboard the ship, what we expect of Christian behavior, or does he never make up for his previous mistakes?
11. How do the suspense and mystery elements of the story demonstrate the themes of love, forgiveness, and sacrifice for the redemption of others?
12. Who do you think makes the most important changes in the story --- Tabitha, Dominick, or Raleigh? What is the significance of the changes they make?
13. Isaiah 53:5 is the bible verse chosen for this book. How do you think it applies to the themes in the story?
14. Who is your favorite character and why?

## **Author Bio**

Laurie Alice Eakes is the author of *LADY IN THE MIST*, *HEART'S SAFE PASSAGE*, *A NECESSARY DECEPTION*, *A FLIGHT OF FANCY* and several other novels. She won a National Readers Choice Award for Best Regency in 2007 for *FAMILY GUARDIAN*. Laurie Alice writes full-time from her home in Texas, where she lives with her husband and

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