

Book Club Discussion Guide – Madame Presidentess

1. Victoria Woodhull is a historical person. How do you feel reading fiction about real people differs from reading about fictional characters? Do you find it easier or harder? Does it appeal to you more or less?
2. Had you ever heard of Victoria prior to reading *Madame Presidentess*? If so, what did you know and how did you find out about her?
3. What surprised you the most about Victoria's life?
4. How did Victoria's upbringing influence the rest of her life?
5. Discuss the major themes in *Madame Presidentess*.
6. Victoria trusts the spirits implicitly throughout her life. How do you think that faith both helps and hinders her? Have you ever experienced a time when faith saw you through a rough time?
7. Victoria has both good and bad intentions/motivations throughout the book. Discuss how her motivations change and why.
8. Victoria wouldn't be who she is without her outspokenness, which was unusual for her time. What did she say that most shocked you?
9. What do you think of Victoria's family, in particular Tennie?
10. What do you think Victoria could have done differently to prevent her downfall?
11. Why do you think Victoria wrote the article about Reverend Beecher? Do you think it was revenge or a true concern for justice? Maybe a bit of both? Something else?
12. Why do you think Victoria turns on Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Cornelius Vanderbilt?
13. Has your perception or understanding of anything changed as a result of reading this book? If so, what and why?
14. Did anything bother you about this book? What and why?
15. For all her accomplishments, Victoria is relatively unknown and is mostly excluded from the history books. Why do you think that is? What can be done to change that?
16. How do you think Victoria would be perceived if she were alive today?
17. Victoria Woodhull vs. Hillary Clinton – who would win and why?