



The Awakening by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Angela Hunt has described *The Awakening* as a parable, a story designed to illustrate a spiritual truth. What truth(s) do you think the story illustrates?
2. Do any of the characters in *The Awakening* have spiritual counterparts? Hunt has said that Theodore Norquest represents the Heavenly Father—do you think it's odd that God should be represented by a horror novelist? Why or why not?
3. Is God horrifying? What aspects of his character could be terrifying?
4. Read the following paragraph and discuss how it relates to the gifts God has given his children. How has he endowed us? And what sort of responsibilities does that endowment entail?

Still . . . something in me yearns to know the man whose image I bear. I have studied his photograph on the cover of *Shadowed Sanctuary*, and I can see his eyes in mine. And despite what Clara said, I don't think a man would part with a million dollars unless motivated by some sort of honest feeling. And he named me as an heir to so many of his copyrights—an act that could mean more than his monetary endowment. I'm no expert about copyright law, but I know he is entrusting me with the fruits of his creativity, allowing me to control and reap benefits from his work. With that responsibility comes the power to prevent his works from ever being published again . . . or insure that they are published throughout the world.

5. "The important thing," Phil tells Aurora, "is knowing your father remembered you. If your brain is conjuring up memories instead of dreams, maybe he thought of you every year but your mother prevented you from receiving his gifts."

Has the Father sent gifts to you that, for one reason or another, you've been prevented from receiving?

6. Knowing that Aurora's mother and father represent Satan and God, respectively, analyze the comments of those characters in the dream where she lay on the sofa.
 7. What do you think happens to a child's self-image when one parent teaches a child to hate the other? How is this evidenced in Aurora's life?
 8. One of Aurora's more graphic nightmares features cockroaches. If you were to attempt dream analysis, what do you think the cockroaches represented?
 9. Of the woman in the penthouse, Aurora says, "I've been trying not to think about the woman in the penthouse, but I keep seeing her in that man's arms--Beauty and the Beast, but in this case they are the same person. How can a person appear so beautiful and be so soiled?" How do Aurora's thoughts about this woman relate to her thoughts about her mother?
 10. Aurora has a terrible time writing a letter to her father. How does this compare to the difficulty some people have when they sincerely try to pray for the first time?
 11. If you could ask the author any question, what would it be?
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