

Stephanie: Days of Turmoil and Victory
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Discussion Questions

1. The 1970's were, indeed, days of turmoil for our nation. Do you have memories or family stories of those times? How was our country changed by those turbulent days? Do you think it was for the better or the worse?
2. There is a certain amount of tension between Stephanie and her mother. Do you think that is just natural between any mother and daughter, a product of society focusing so much on "the generation gap" at that time, or specific to Elizabeth's personality?
3. Did you see Elizabeth as demanding or controlling? If so, what in her past might have made her that way? Do you find that understanding a person's past makes it easier to get along with them?
4. Stephanie has a particularly good relationship with her grandmother. Do you think it is typical for there to be a special relationship between grandparents and grandchildren? Why might that be so? What are the special relationships in your family? Are they inter-generational?
5. Stephanie is tugged to help the UPI reporter Jimmy because they were childhood friends and he promotes her political agenda. How did you feel about their friendship?
6. The rock festival known as the Universal Life Church Picnic was an historic event. Have you ever attended a rock festival? What was your experience with the music, the ambiance, the lifestyle?

7. Stephanie is torn between the old world charms of David Fraser and the prickly strengths of Carlton Sperlin. What do you think she was most drawn to in each man? Do you think you would have made the same decisions Stephanie made in her circumstances?
8. Carlton's addiction could be called a form of what is now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Have you had family or friends that have suffered from PTSD?
9. How do you feel about Stephanie's skills as a politician? What are her strengths and her weaknesses? Is she someone you would vote for?
10. Kathryn experiences a lifelong dream when she and Stephanie go back to Scotland. Do you have long-held dreams and ambitions? Have they been fulfilled yet? It seems that many times dreams are fulfilled by later generations. Has this been true in any way in your family?
11. When things got difficult for Stephanie she would often turn to her grandmother's journal and draw strength from the struggles and triumphs Kathryn experienced. Do you find courage to carry on from the victories of past ages?
12. Kathryn and Elizabeth both found strength in their trials from spiritual sources. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Stephanie struggled with her spirituality. Do you feel she came to a vibrant faith?