



Bound

By Sally Gunning
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Introduction

Brought to New England and bound into servitude to pay her father's debts, Alice Cole, at fifteen, can barely remember the time when she was not a servant to John Morton. His daughter, Nabby, only three years older than Alice, begins as Alice's childhood companion, but when Nabby weds, she becomes Alice's mistress. But the marriage is not what it appears, and Alice, endangered by its storm, defies her new master and the law, and escapes to Boston. Impulsively stowing away on a ship to Satucket on Cape Cod, Alice believes that she has left her old life and her secrets behind. Yet in a time of unrest and uncertainty, as political and personal stakes rise and intertwine, she discovers that freedom, friendship, trust, and love each have a price far greater than she ever imagined.

Questions for Discussion

1. Bound explores the ties that bind one person to another. Which ties do you feel should have been preserved? Which broken?
2. Alice is a person both old and young for her age. In what ways is she mature and in what ways immature?
3. What do you see as Alice's expectations out of life? How do these change in the course of the book?
4. Do you think Alice feels sorry for herself? Why or why not?
5. Alice refers several times to the idea that a man's eyes are on her. Do you think all men's eyes really are on Alice, or does she just perceive it to be so?
6. In the beginning of the book Nate greatly admires Freeman. Toward the end he appears to become disillusioned. What causes this change? How do you think he feels about Freeman at the end?
7. Do you feel Mr. Morton deserve Alice's prayers?
8. Do you agree with Nate that Freeman would have surely ended up 'touching' Alice if she'd returned to Satucket? Do you think Nate really believes this? If he doesn't, why does he say it?
9. Discuss what Alice wants/needs from Freeman and whether it would be possible to achieve.
10. Do you think Nate really planned to go to Pownalborough?
11. Can you think of reasons Alice hasn't considered that would explain why Lyddie might forgo her dower right to marry Freeman?