

Promise Me This

Cathy Gohlke

1. Do you think there was a defining moment, a turning point in Eleanor Hargrave's life? Standing at that crossroads, what difference would another choice have made for her and her family?
2. Mackenzie and Owen Allen, father and son, were offered the same opportunity at different times: to join the family business in New Jersey. What do their different responses tell us about them?
3. Annie complained when Owen urged her to read *The Pilgrim's Progress* and asked if he could not have found her something "amusing." What value did Owen see in reading the book, and what lesson in showing her the tomb? How did this affect Annie throughout the story?
4. Do you see a parallel between Owen's gift to Michael and Christ's gift to us? If so, please explain.
5. Michael knew Owen only a short time. Why did he grieve so deeply for him? What did Michael eventually learn from Owen's example?
6. Do you see a parallel between Michael's and Annie's responses to Owen's gift of life and our response to Christ's gift to us? If so, discuss both their positive and negative responses. Relate those to our own responses.
7. Why did Michael reach out to Annie again after she had made it clear she wanted nothing to do with him? How did his letter after the burning of her gardens change her attitude toward him?
8. After all Annie had been through and with the joy of Michael's coming to England before her, why did she succumb to Aunt Eleanor's blackmail scheme to send her to France during the war? Do you think she made the right choice?
9. Discuss Michael's pursuit of Annie through the battlefields of France. Was there ever a time you thought he might give up the search? Can you think of a biblical parallel to his determination to find her?
10. Annie came to love Michael with all her heart. Why did she agree to marry Phillippe so soon after she thought Michael dead? What do you think changed her mind?
11. Michael did all he could to fulfill his promise to Owen to bring Annie to America. Why did he finally surrender his pursuit? Is there ever a time we should relinquish a vow we have made?
12. Owen, Michael, Annie, the Spragues, Maggie, and Daniel all showed great love in different ways. Which character do you most identify with and why?



