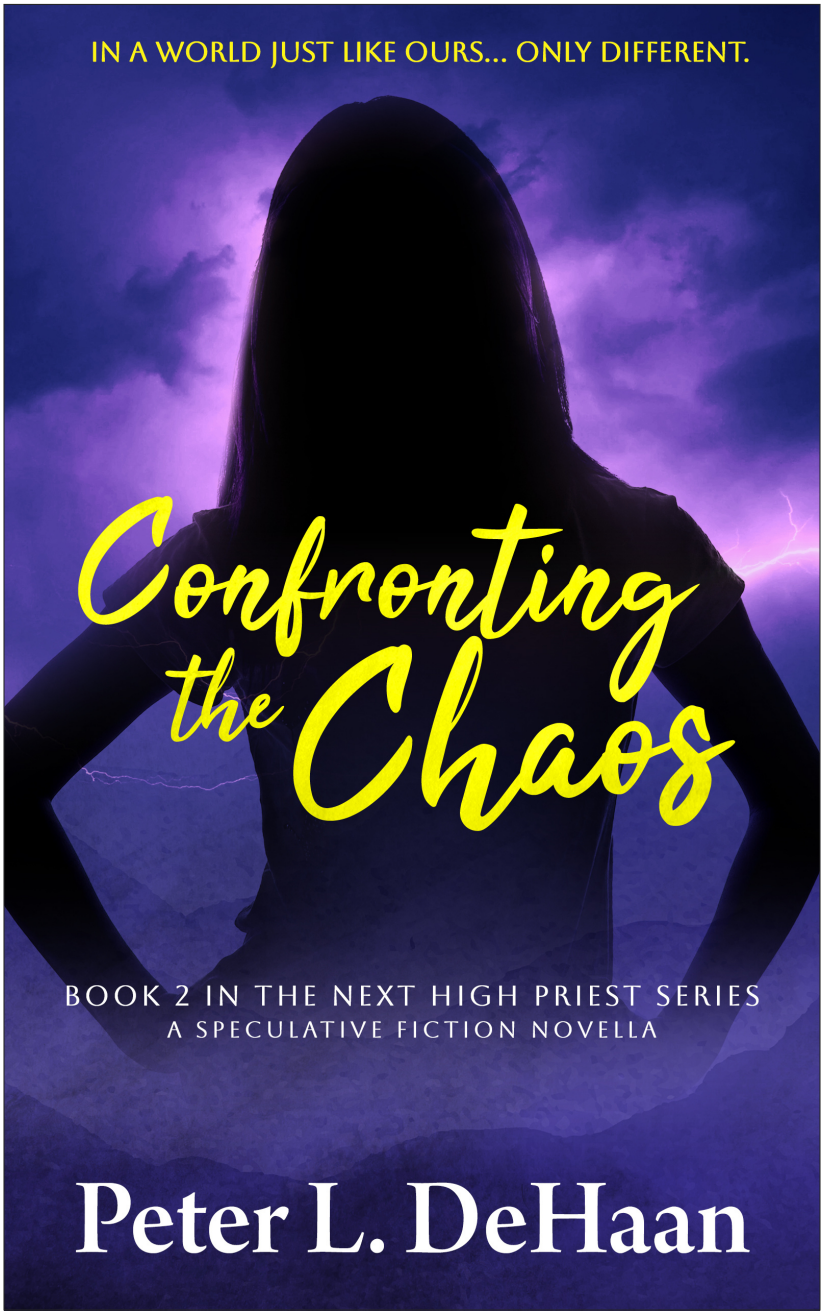


Discussion Guide for

Confronting the Chaos

by Peter L. DeHaan

For book clubs

PeterLDeHaan.com

How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your meeting. There are no right or wrong answers—share what stood out to you. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–2: Awakening to a New Role

Emma wakes in the Temple Palace, learns she has become High Priestess after the Sovereign protected her, and meets the controlling Chief of Priests.

1. What was your first reaction when Emma realized she had slept for over a day and was now expected to stay in the palace?
2. How does Emma's relationship with her family show up in these early moments?
3. What do you notice about the Chief of Priests (Pompous Jack) the first time he appears?
4. Emma says, "The Sovereign protected me." How does that statement shape the way she faces everything else?
5. When the Chief tells her she will live in the palace "until the day you die," how did that land with you?
6. In what ways does Emma already show she plans to do things her own way?

Chapters 3–5: Preparing Under Pressure

Emma receives a threatening note, gets fitted for the robe, and begins to sense the weight of her new position.

1. How does the threat through the window change the atmosphere for Emma?
2. What does the robe fitting scene reveal about how others view her role?
3. Jennifer shows kindness right away—what does that friendship add to the story so far?
4. Emma keeps saying she never asked to be High Priestess. Do you think that matters to the people around her?
5. How does the Sovereign's protection feel both comforting and isolating at this point?

Chapters 6–8: The First Sunday Service

Emma removes her makeup, leads part of the service in her own way, and faces immediate backlash from the Chief.

1. What stood out to you about Emma's choice to lower the hood and wave at the end?
2. How do the people in the sanctuary respond, and why do you think some are upset?
3. Ashley's conversation with Emma shows a different side of Temple life—what surprised you?
4. After the service, how does Emma handle the Chief's anger?
5. Where do you see the Sovereign at work even when things feel chaotic?

Chapters 9–11: Friends, Faith, and School

Emma imparts the Divine Spirit to Chloe, reconnects with Gabe, and discovers school is no longer normal.

1. How does giving Chloe the Divine Spirit affect their friendship?
2. What do you make of Gabe's correction that Emma is "not the One"?
3. How do the students' reactions at school make you feel for Emma?
4. Emma wants to keep living a normal life—what parts of her old life does she fight to hold on to?
5. Where do you see the cost of following the Sovereign beginning to show?

Chapters 12–14: Relationships and Hard Choices

Emma and Joshua hold hands, her parents decide she must live at the palace, and she shares one last dinner at home.

1. How does the moment with Joshua feel different from everything else happening to Emma?
2. What do you think of her parents' decision?
3. How does the family dinner scene balance joy and sadness?
4. Emma says she will do what her parents ask even if it's not what she wants. How does that land with you?
5. What does this section show about counting the cost of obedience?

Chapters 15–17: Protection and Spiritual Sight

During the limo ride, Gabe explains colors and auras, attacks are blocked, and Emma begins to see the spiritual reality around her.

1. Which part of the color conversation helped you picture the spiritual realm most clearly?
2. How does Emma respond when danger comes near?
3. What does the glossy black aura of the Chief tell us about the stakes?
4. How do the police cars and the Sovereign's protection work together in this scene?
5. What new understanding does Emma gain about who she is dealing with?

Chapters 18–20: Threats, Disciples, and a Stand

Threats escalate at school, Emma's friends surround her, and back at the palace she turns down the Chief's offer of protection in exchange for favors.

1. How do Emma's disciples show up for her when things get dangerous?
2. What does the locker scene make you feel about the cost of standing out for faith?
3. How does Emma's decision to leave school feel like both loss and freedom?
4. The Chief offers to make Emma's troubles "go away" for a little "quid pro quo," and she answers that the Sovereign protects her. What does this exchange reveal about the kind of protection each of them is offering?
5. Where do you see true friendship shining brightest in these final chapters?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. What is the biggest change in Emma from the first chapter to the last?
2. How does the opening quote about true and false friends play out in the story?
3. Which character surprised you most and why?
4. Where did you see the Sovereign's protection most clearly?
5. How does the story explore the tension between wanting a normal life and being called to something bigger?
6. What role does friendship play in helping Emma stay faithful?

7. Which scene would you most want to talk about with someone who hasn't read the book?

8. How does the spiritual-realm imagery (colors, auras, Divine Spirit) affect the way you think about faith?

9. What does the story suggest about the cost of following God when others resist?

10. If the next book picks up right after this one, what are you most hoping to see?

11. Which moment made you laugh or smile the most?

12. What line or idea from the story has stayed with you since you finished?

13. How does Emma's journey challenge or encourage your own walk with God?

14. Who in the story do you think will become most important in the books ahead?

15. Would you recommend this book to a friend who enjoys Christian fiction? Why or why not?

About the Author

Peter L. DeHaan is an adult who dreams of being a teenager. When he's not contemplating grown-up thoughts, his mind retreats to the domain of invented worlds with his loyal and most real, yet still imaginary, friends.

His first published adventures come to life in The Next High Priest Series—a faith-friendly speculative fiction adventure in a world just like ours . . . only different.

Read the Rest of The Next High Priest Series

Confronting the Chaos is book 2 of The Next High Priest Series. The full series:

1. Seeking the Sovereign
2. Confronting the Chaos
3. **Dueling the Devil**
4. Reforming the Religion
5. Freeing the Prisoners
6. Fighting the Fanatics
7. Perfecting the Priesthood
8. Pursuing the Politicians
9. Restoring the Repentant

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