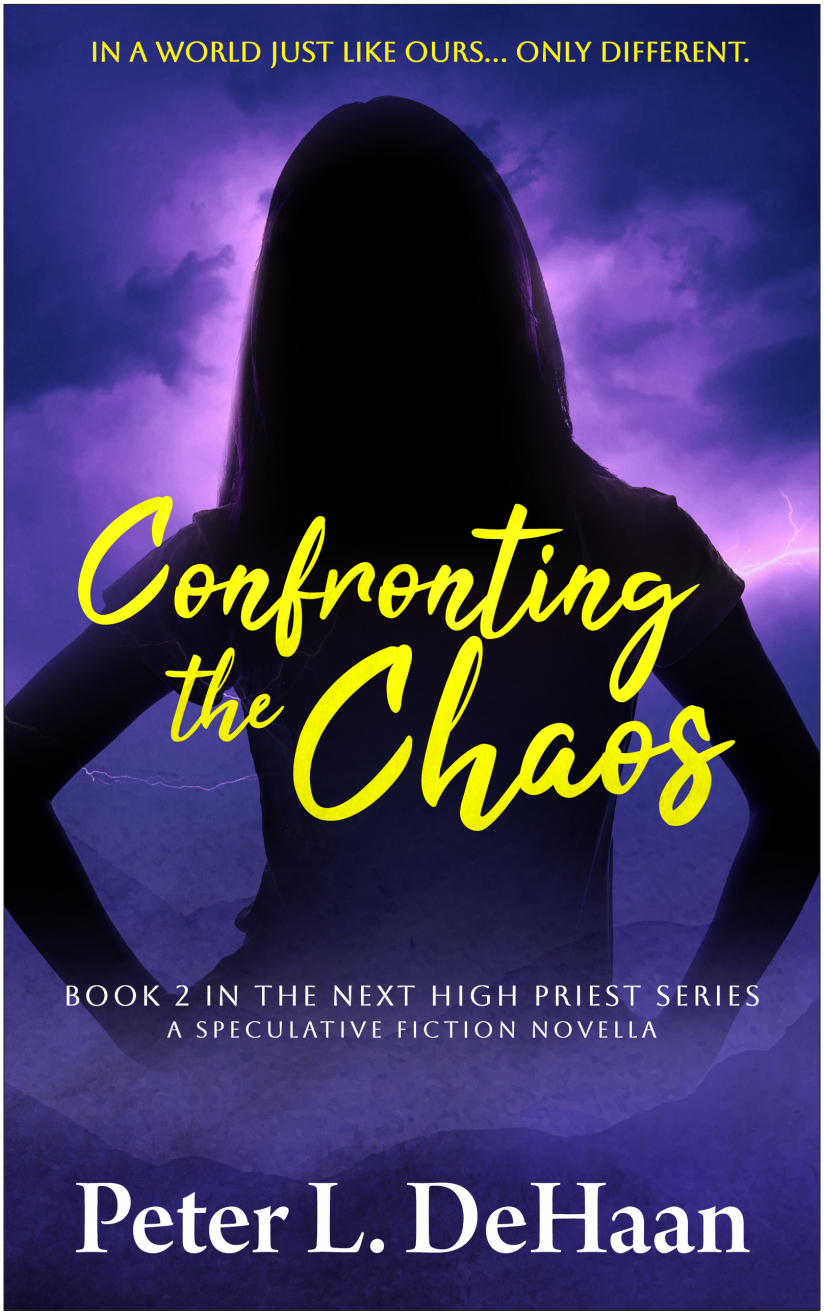



Discussion Guide for

# *Confronting the Chaos*

by Peter L. DeHaan

For high school classes

PeterLDeHaan.com

## How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first, or finish each chapter group before discussing it. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your class period. 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 an Unexpected Calling

*Emma wakes up in the Temple Palace after surviving bullets and a night with the Sovereign; she learns she is now the new High Priestess and cannot return to her old life.*

1. How does Emma feel when she first wakes up, and why does that matter for the rest of the story?
2. What does Emma's conversation with her parents reveal about how she views the Sovereign's protection?
3. Why does Pompous Jack treat Emma the way he does, and what does this show about power?
4. When Emma says she never wanted to be High Priestess, what does that tell us about her character?
5. How does the Sovereign's protection of Emma connect to the theme verse from Wisdom 7:241?
6. If you were in Emma's place, would you feel excited, scared, or both? Why?

## Chapters 3–5: Adjusting to Palace Life and Facing Threats

*Emma meets the tailor, receives a threatening note through a broken window, and begins to see that living at the Temple Palace comes with real danger.*

1. How does Emma's reaction to the old robe show her personality?
2. What does the brick and note reveal about the opposition Emma now faces?
3. Why does Jennifer risk helping Emma, and what does that say about true friendship?
4. How does Emma respond to the note, and what does this choice show about her growing faith?

## Chapters 6–8: The First Sunday Service and Its Aftermath

*Emma is told exactly what to say, removes her ghostly makeup, delivers her lines with heart, receives a standing ovation, and later stands up to Pompous Jack.*

1. What does the Sovereign whisper to Emma, and how does it guide her choices?
2. Why does Emma feel peace before the service, and where does that peace come from?
3. What moral choice does Emma face when Pompous Jack tells her what to say in the service?
4. What happens when Emma lowers her hood, and why is that moment important?
5. How does Emma handle Pompous Jack's anger afterward? What does this show about courage?
6. In what ways does Emma's family support her, and how does that strengthen her?

## Chapters 9–11: Returning to School and Growing Opposition

*Emma shares a first kiss attempt with Joshua, tries to go back to normal school life, discovers her friends and classmates now see her differently, finds a threatening note in her locker, and faces Principal Johnson's warning that she may need to leave.*

1. How do Emma's friends react to her new role, and how does that affect their relationships?
2. How does the first real kiss attempt (and miss) affect Emma and Joshua's relationship?
3. Why does Emma feel torn between her old life and her new calling?
4. How does Emma's faith help her when students turn against her?
5. What moral choice does she face about staying in school?

## Chapters 12–14: Family Decisions and New Beginnings

*Emma and Joshua hold hands on the walk home, her parents decide she must live at the Temple Palace, and she shares a final dinner at home before leaving.*

1. What does the conversation with her parents reveal about sacrifice and family?
2. How does Emma's pinky-swear moment with Pompous Jack show her growing confidence?
3. In what ways is Emma learning to balance being a normal teenager with being High Priestess?
4. How does her family's support point to the importance of community in faith?

## Chapters 15–17: The Limo Ride and Supernatural Protection

*During the limo ride, Emma learns about spiritual colors, prays for protection, and sees the Sovereign answer through police help.*

1. What does the rainbow-color discussion teach Emma (and readers) about people's spiritual condition?
2. How does Emma respond when the cars attack the limo, and what does this show about her faith?
3. Why is Gabe's explanation of glossy black important for understanding evil?
4. How does praying before acting change the outcome of the situation?
5. What does this section teach about trusting the Sovereign in danger?

## Chapters 18–20: New Alliances and Ongoing Threats

*Emma meets Junior, helps Ashley and Topher, finds her locker defaced and then torn apart (following the note left in it back in chapter 11), and realizes she cannot keep attending school.*

1. How does Junior's friendly greeting contrast with everyone else's reactions to Emma?
2. What does Emma do to help Ashley and Topher, and why does that matter?
3. What does the threatening note in her locker and the damaged locker itself reveal about the cost of standing for the Sovereign?
4. How do Emma's disciples show loyalty when her locker is vandalized?
5. What moral choice does Emma face about continuing at school?
6. How does the story so far show that following the Sovereign often brings both opposition and unexpected help?

## Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma grow in her understanding of what it means to be High Priestess?
2. Which moral choice in the story felt the hardest for Emma, and why?
3. How does Emma's relationship with the Sovereign change from the beginning to the end?
4. What does the story teach about true friendship versus false friendship?
5. In what ways does Emma's family support (or challenge) her faith journey?
6. Which scene best shows the cost of standing for truth?
7. How does the theme verse from Wisdom 7:241 appear throughout the book?
8. What would you have done differently if you were Emma when the brick came through the window?
9. How does the story show that the Sovereign's protection does not always look the way we expect?
10. Which character changed the most in your eyes, and what caused that change?
11. What lesson from Emma's story can you apply to your own life this week?
12. If the book continued, what do you think Emma's next big challenge would be?

13. How does this story encourage you to pray more boldly?

14. Which part of the book made you laugh, and which part made you think hardest?

15. Who should read this book, and why?

## 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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