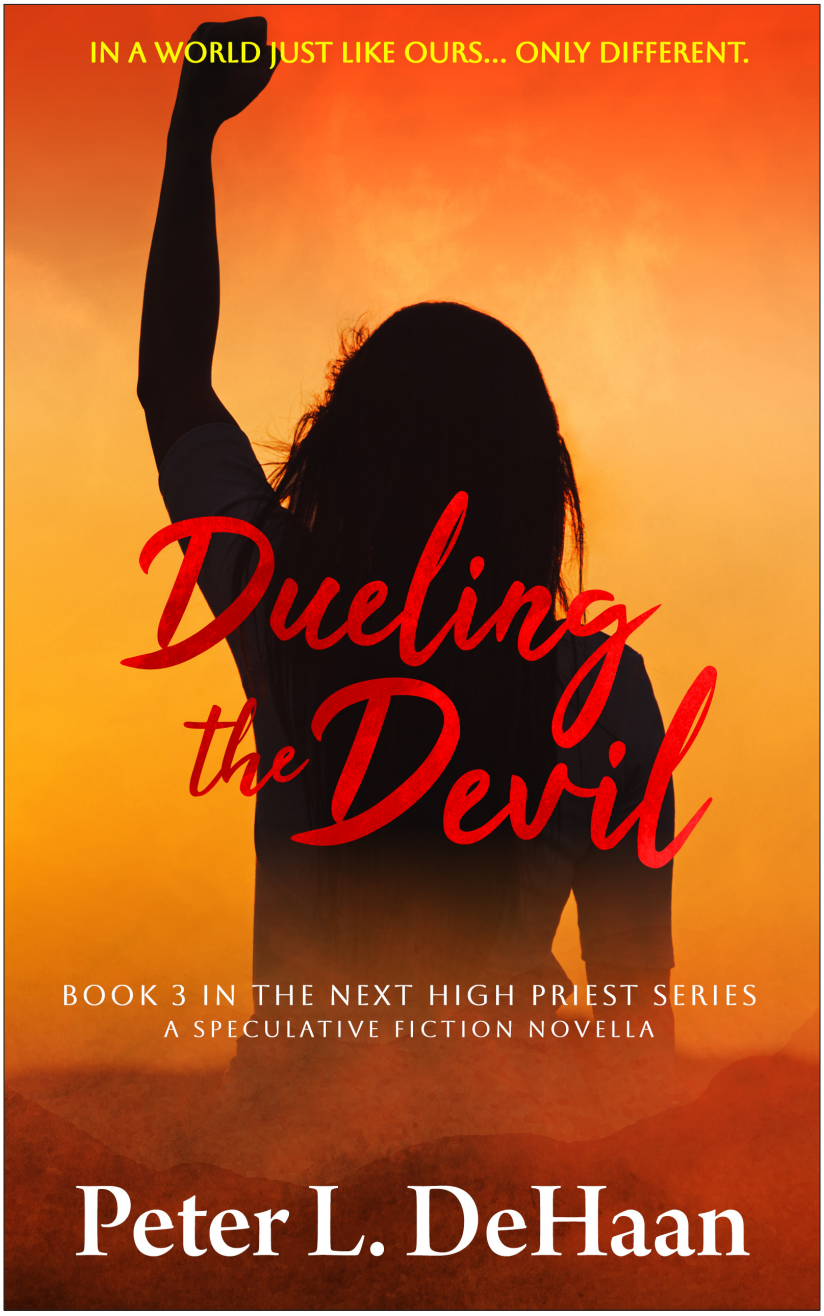


Discussion Guide for

Dueling the Devil

by Peter L. DeHaan

For homeschool and co-op 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 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 1–3: Standing Up and Seeking Guidance

Emma faces Pompous Jack's threats, studies the Holy Text, and receives her first instructions from the Sovereign about dividing the priests.

1. What did Emma say to Pompous Jack when he tried to boss her around?
2. How did Emma feel after the staring contest, and what did she do next?
3. What worries kept Emma from focusing on the Holy Text at first?
4. How did the Sovereign first speak to Emma that night, and what simple step was she told to take?
5. What did Emma see when she looked into the spiritual realm around her room?
6. Why do you think the Sovereign told Emma to start with the priests instead of everything else?

Chapters 4–6: Dividing the Priests and Facing Control

Emma divides the priests into groups based on what the Sovereign shows her, meets with each group, and then faces new rules from Pompous Jack that trap her in her quarters.

1. How did Emma know which priests belonged in the Gamma, Beta, and Alpha groups?
2. What happened when she told the Alpha group they needed to change?
3. How did Pompous Jack treat Emma during their 5:00 meeting, and what did he threaten?
4. What new schedule and rules did Pompous Jack give Emma?
5. How did Emma respond when the security guard shoved her into her quarters?
6. What did Emma notice about the space she was now stuck in?

Chapters 7–9: The Tutor's Cruelty and the Protest

Emma's harsh tutor takes over her school day, the Temple staff protests, and Emma joins in from her window—leading to a physical attack.

1. What did the tutor do when Emma turned in her history test after class had ended?

2. How did Emma feel when she saw the protesters outside?

3. What happened right after Emma started chanting from the window?

4. How did Emma fight back against the security guard?

5. What did the guard do after he cuffed her?

6. How did Emma finally get the cuffs off?

Chapters 10–12: Poisoning, the Dumbwaiter, and Chloe's Arrival

Emma discovers the food and water are poisoned, finds the dumbwaiter, and gets help from Junior and Chloe.

1. What did the Sovereign show Emma about the food on her tray?

2. How did Emma figure out the dumbwaiter could bring food?

3. What safe food did Junior send up first?

4. How did Chloe get into Emma's quarters?

5. What did Chloe and Emma do together once Chloe arrived?

Chapters 13–15: Food and Flight, and Dad's Visit

Emma and Chloe ask the Sovereign to make Emma's quarters holy, Chloe slips out, Emma pretends to be dying, she receives day-by-day food from the Sovereign, and her dad visits with news about his job.

1. How did Emma and Chloe make Emma's quarters feel safe again?
2. What did Emma do when the food server brought breakfast the next morning?
3. How did Emma know the food in the mini fridge was safe each day?
4. What big news did Emma's dad share about his job and her mom's job?
5. How did Emma's dad react when she told him about the poisoning?
6. What did Emma ask her dad to do with the blood and food samples?
7. How did Emma feel about her family possibly having to move?

Chapters 16–18: Removing the Guard, Heavenly Trip, and the Test

Emma gets the guard removed, her spirit ascends to heaven, and she faces a test when her body is moved while she's gone.

1. What happened when Emma opened her door to the guard who had assaulted her?
2. How did Emma's spirit separate from her body and reach the Sovereign?
3. What did the Sovereign tell Emma about the two battles ahead?
4. Where did Emma find her body after it was taken to the hospital?
5. How did Joshua, Emma's parents, and the Gamma priests help get her body back?
6. What did Emma do the moment her spirit reunited with her body?

Chapters 19–21: Reunion, the Duel, and the Arrest

Emma's friends gather, she duels Pompous Jack in the spiritual realm, and he is finally arrested.

1. How did Emma's friends react when they saw she was okay?
2. What happened to Pompous Jack's appearance after the duel?
3. How did Captain Hernandez arrest Pompous Jack?
4. What did Pompous Jack say as he was being taken away?
5. How did Emma respond when he asked her to save him?
6. What did Emma notice about her own body after the duel was over?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How did Emma grow in trusting the Sovereign from the first chapter to the last?
2. Which character surprised you most by how they responded to Emma?
3. What did you notice about how evil tried to control Emma and how she fought back?
4. How did the Sovereign's day-by-day help (food, strength, guidance) show up in the story?
5. Which scene made you feel most hopeful, and why?
6. What did you learn about standing up to someone in authority when it feels wrong?
7. How did Emma's relationships with Junior, Chloe, Jennifer, and Joshua change during the book?
8. What part of the spiritual realm battles stood out to you the most?
9. If Emma had given up at any point, how might the story have ended differently?
10. Which moment showed Emma trusting the Sovereign even when she didn't have all the answers?
11. How did the book show that the Sovereign can use one teenager to make big changes?
12. What did you think about the way Pompous Jack's power finally ended?
13. Which Bible verse or idea from the story would you like to remember?

14. How does Emma's story make you think about trusting God when things at school or home feel unfair?

15. What part of this book would you most want to tell a friend about?

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

Dueling the Devil is book 3 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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