

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

# BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

Book #4 in The Clifton Chronicles by Jeffrey Archer

1. Why do you think Cedric Hardcastle abstains from voting on who should be the new chairman of Barrington's?
2. When Sebastian is in the car with Tom, Cedric Hardcastle's chauffeur, he thinks that "birth is life's first lottery ticket." What do you think of this idea? Is where you're born, and who your parents are, a determining factor in what you can do with your life? Does our society make it easy or difficult to rise above the circumstances of your birth?
3. Like Mr. Hardcastle, Sebastian gives up going to college in order to take a job at a bank. What do you think of this decision?
4. At Jessica's art opening, Emma refers to herself as old-fashioned, and Sebastian teasingly calls her prehistoric. Given her life story, do you think this is a fair assessment?
5. When Fisher and Don Pedro are plotting to prevent Giles from winning the election to be the leader of the opposition, why do you think they settle on giving him a heart attack rather than just killing him? Don Pedro has proved that he's not averse to murder, so does this decision reflect simply a more convenient plan, or do you think there were some qualms on Fisher's part?
6. Do you think that Jessica's suicide would have been avoided if she'd known the truth about her parentage? Or do you think that, given the previous mentions of her depression, something that drove her to suicide was bound to come along?
7. At Jessica's funeral, Sebastian says that he doesn't believe in a compassionate, caring God anymore. Discuss this reaction to the death of a loved one.
8. Do you think Mr. Agnew was right to fire Samantha Sullivan after she and Sebastian accidentally stole a painting from his gallery?
9. Cedric Hardcastle describes himself as a "cautious, boring, dull" man. What do you think of this description? If you don't think it's accurate, how would you describe Hardcastle?
10. Does his plan to destroy Don Pedro make Cedric Hardcastle a righteous avenger, or does it bring him down to Don Pedro's level?