

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR**  
**THE SINS OF THE FATHER**

Book #2 in The Clifton Chronicles by Jeffrey Archer

1. What do you think of Harry's experience with the U.S. legal system? Is it fair? Does this reflect more on the people with whom he interacted—his lawyer, Tom Bradshaw's family—or the system as a whole?
2. How do Harry's experiences in prison make you feel about the penitentiary system, both in the United States and elsewhere?
3. Maisie Clifton is unwilling to read the letter she believes to be from Tom Bradshaw, because she doesn't feel she needs any more condolences, whereas Emma Barrington is determined to find out every detail of what happened to Harry before his supposed death. What do you think this says about the two women's styles of grieving, and their personalities in general?
4. In this book, both Emma Barrington and Olga Piotrovska deal with being an unmarried mother, but in very different circumstances. Do you think the way they deal with this social stigma has more to do with the women themselves, or with the men who fathered their children—Harry Clifton for Emma, and Hugo Barrington for Olga?
5. Maisie Clifton is clearly a smart, capable, beautiful woman. What did you think of her decision to marry Mr. Holcombe over Major Mullholland Patrick Casey?
6. Giles Barrington lies about his colorblindness in order to enlist in the army. Do you think this was the right decision? Does he gain honor for having served his country, or dishonor for having disobeyed their rules to enlist in the first place?
7. What do you think of Mr. Guinzburg's skillful maneuvering of his contract with Sefton Jelks, to ensure that Harry's earliest diary was only unable to be published in hardback? Does this seem like shady business dealing to you? If not, why? If so, is it justified by all the harm that Sefton Jelks has done in the past?
8. Given the conversation Olga Piotrovska and Hugo Barrington had before the fight that ended in Hugo's death, and given her final remarks to him about having learned to lie, what do you think Olga's intentions were when she went to confront Hugo? Do you think it's possible that she had any idea the visit would end the way it did?
9. Giles stands for Parliament as a Labor candidate in honor of Terry Bates, and so that future generations of bright, lower class boys like Bates will have the opportunities he was denied. Do you think issues of class difference have made progress in the decades since this book was set?

10. The question of who will inherit the Barrington title is left undecided at the end of the book. Who do you think deserves the title more?
11. Lord Preston believes that the system of hereditary nobility in England has gone on long enough. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?