

Discussion Questions

for

The Will: Tales From a Revolution – Pennsylvania

Chapters 1-5

- How are the sacrifices of even those who come home safely exposed through these chapters?
- What do we learn about the transmission of news from distant fields of conflict?
- Does the news that Isaac carries seem to have immediate implications for the overall progress of the war?

Chapters 6-10

- Why is the option of divorce not as viable an option as we are now accustomed to seeing it?
- How does the accessibility of top national leaders differ from what we see today?
- What can we observe about the administration of justice from Isaac's interview with the Congress?

Chapters 11-15

- How does the rising threat to the safety of Philadelphia lead to opportunities for Isaac?
- What does the response of the civilian population of the city tell us about the divisions in sentiment?
- How does Nichols' experience illustrate the extreme privations of the Quebec expedition?
- How did Paine's pamphlet *The American Crisis* affect the war effort?
- What can we observe about the practice of midwifery during the Revolutionary era?

Chapters 16-20

- How does Catharine's perception of Isaac's service seem to differ from the way that others see it?
- What does the news of Washington's victory at Trenton do for morale in Philadelphia?
- How is Isaac's situation affected by his parents?

Chapters 21-25

- What is the immediate effect in Philadelphia of Washington's loss at Brandywine?
- How does Catharine's reaction to having to flee the city change his relationship with his son?
- What do we learn about the inflationary impact of paper currency from Isaac's conflict with the Council?
- How was the news of victory at York-Town received in Philadelphia?