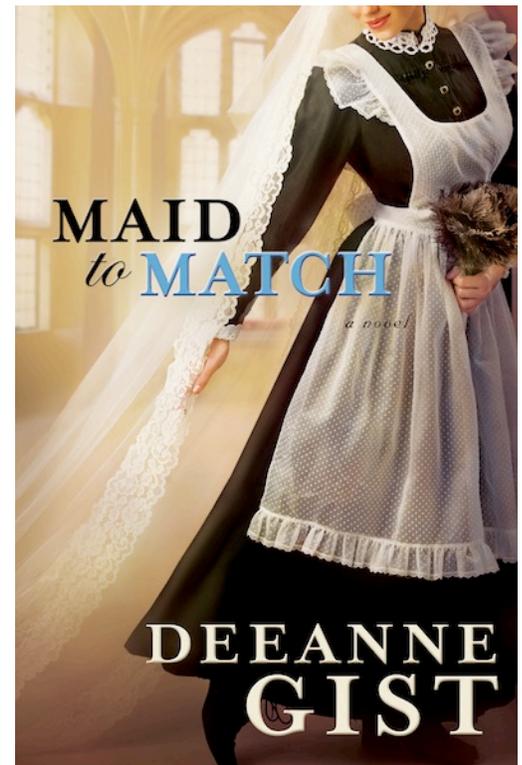


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR  
**MAID TO MATCH**  
by Deeanne Gist

1. Tillie's first impression of Mack was not favorable when she first saw him at the orphanage and again at the front the Biltmore mansion. What was your impression of Mack? Why?
2. *Maid to Match* is set in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina in a fabulous chateau owned by one of the richest, most famous families of the day. It was a dream come true for Tillie. Were you able to visualize Biltmore House? What was your favorite part about it? Have you ever been there? What did you think of it?
3. Tillie dreamed and trained all her life to become a Lady's Maid, but when she finally had the chance, it wasn't at all what she expected. When did you first suspect she began to suffer doubts? Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever achieved a goal and then realized it was really someone else's goal and not yours?
4. What character did you most relate to and why?
5. What was your favorite scene and why?
6. Mack and Earl were frequently confused since they were identical twins. What did you think of Earl? If you could write a sequel about Earl, what would happen to him?
7. Edith Vanderbilt's thought and care in selecting just the right gift for each child made the annual Christmas party a very special tradition that continues to this day. Do you have special Christmas or other holiday traditions that are particularly meaningful to your family?
8. Guests at Biltmore House were amazed at its electric lights, central heat and indoor plumbing. If a grand home were built today, what cutting edge innovations might it have?
9. Although the orphanage in *Maid to Match* was entirely fictitious, it was based on well-documented historical accounts of the plight of orphans at the turn of the century. Do you think we've been able to improve the plight of orphans in these last 100 years? Are you involved personally with any orphans or orphanages? Can you share with the group your impressions of their needs now?
10. As Tillie sewed Edith's lingerie and repaired the fine ribbons and embroidery, she pondered over what it represented. She reflected on the difference between the lifestyles of the rich and the common folk. Do you think this gap has narrowed or widened over the past 100 years?



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Additional questions for Christian groups:

11. At Mack and Tillie's wedding reception, Tillie's mother was still not able to overcome her disappointment that Tillie had married instead of becoming a Lady's Maid. Was this too much to expect in such a short time? How do you find the act of forgiveness? Does it happen in an instant? Does it take time? What do you do if you can't find it in your heart to forgive yet?
12. George and Edith Vanderbilt were extremely progressive in their views on social justice. Their treatment of their servants and Estate workers was very generous, yet they still lived in extreme luxury. Should they have done more? Is it ever "right" to live in luxury?