



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS *THE RISING TIDE* BY HELEN BRAIN

Early in *The Rising Tide*, Ebba witnesses a horrible event regarding the Poladion family. How does this trauma affect her for the rest of the book?

By material standards—money, relationships, influence, clothes, living on a large estate—Ebba is a pretty lucky teenager. What are the ways in which she is not “lucky”?

Name a few ways Ebba has changed since the events of *The Thousand Steps*, and a few ways she is still the same.

Allegiances come in many forms in the story: political allegiances, family allegiances, allegiance to one’s friends and partner, allegiance to oneself. How does Ebba balance her various allegiances, and where does she fail to do so?

Many people break Ebba’s trust in the story, but Ebba also breaks the trust of her friends and family several times. What are those times? Why is trust so important, and how can we encourage others to trust us?

How does Ebba’s gender affect how she’s received by her peers?

The first Great Calamity was created by nuclear war, which caused sea levels to rise, flooding Ebba’s home of Cape Town and much of the world. While this book is a work of fiction, much of what happens in Ebba’s world,

including sea level rise and deforestation, are actual consequences of our very real climate change crisis. In what ways is this book a warning about the future of our planet?

We discover a secret about Isi in *The Rising Tide*. Discuss the role that Isi plays in Ebba's life, and how it changes over the course of Book 1 and 2 in the series.

Micah proves to be a bit of a distraction for Ebba in the book—and Ebba's friends worry he may be manipulating her. In what ways does Micah manipulate Ebba?

On page 125, Ebba says, "I may be the last member of the den Eeden left alive, but these eight people are my family." How do you define family? Do you have someone in your life that you're not biologically related to who you consider a part of your family?

The arrival of Alexia changes something for Ebba, and she feels that she finally has a true friend and ally. What traits does Alexia have that make Ebba feel this way, compared to other characters in the book?

Ebba encounters several of her den Eeden ancestors in this book. Which one is your favorite?