



Discussion Questions: *The Daughter of Time*

Folger Book Club—June 2023

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? If asked, what would you say this novel is about?
2. Were you familiar with the Princes in the Tower before reading this novel? If so, had you assumed Richard was to blame? Do you question that now, and are there other historical moments you now wonder about?
3. On page 131, Laura writes “It’s an odd thing but when you tell someone the true facts of a mythical tale they are indignant not with the teller but with you. . . if they were merely indifferent it would be natural and understandable. But it is much stronger than that . . . They are annoyed.” Have you ever reacted that way to something? Why do you think it’s so hard to let go of myths?
4. Grant provides counterexamples of commonly understood histories to show how stories become fact. Are we supposed to take his accounts as true? Or as further examples of personal bias defining history?
5. Much of Grant’s evidence comes from examining what he assumes to be natural human behavior. Is this a reasonable approach? Are there assumptions he makes about the historical figures you disagree with?
6. Written in 1951, *The Daughter of Time* is the oldest book we’ve read to date. Were you aware of its age when reading? What felt contemporary, and what felt dated? How might the discovery of Richard’s skeleton have changed this story?
7. *The Daughter of Time* has received praise as a “detective” and “mystery” novel. Do you agree with this classification? What do you consider the hallmarks of these genres and how were they reflected in this novel? What about these conventions were upended?
8. What surprised you about this mash-up of detective story and historical content? What is it saying about the relationship between fiction and history?
9. What do you make of the relationship between the story and the title?
10. Do you have ideas about how the temporary disability of the narrator relates to Richard’s body as evidence?