

## Book Club Questions for book 2

1. When delivering Mrs. Kelly's baby, Ella knowingly breaks the law by using forceps. Do you think she acted in the best way? What would you have done in her place?
2. On the Neptune, Ella meets with rudeness, indifference, and distrust. Have you ever entered a new environment and found yourself unwelcomed? What did you do?
3. When the captain's steward pours out Ella's remedy for seasickness, Ella responds by lecturing him on his manners. Did Ella create more problems with her primness?
4. Ella sees evidence that alcohol rations harm health and discipline, yet Dr. Pesce advises her against pursuing temperance. Do you think he was right caution Ella? Was she right to take his advice?
5. Jack Wyse wants Ella gone the moment she stepped foot on his ship. At the same time, he fulfills orders to protect her. How does he steer between his duty and his wants? Have you been in a situation when your assignment opposed your desires? What did you do?
6. Dr. Pesce displays the signs of laudanum addiction Ella should recognize, yet her trust in him prevents her from seeing the obvious. Have you ever been blind to someone's behavior because you trusted them?
7. Ella's romance with Robert Weston dissipated. Did you hope for their marriage, or did you see the signs that he was ill-suited? If Ella married him, how do you envision her life?
8. After the broken proposal, Ella swears off romantic love and marriage. Do you think her work and friendships will fulfil her? Can one choose not to fall in love?
9. At times, Ella wears men's clothing and cusses like a sailor. Jack Wyse, on the other hand, wishes to acquire better manners to court Marietta. What do you think their transformation?
10. Ella often says that she can fit in on the ship. In the end, Wyse and Olson tell her that she belongs there. How does belonging differ from fitting in?