

Week 2
The Poisonwood Bible
Discussion Questions

WARNING: THIS DISCUSSION WILL CONTAIN SPOILERS. If you haven't read Book 3 and don't want spoilers, please come back to discuss when you are done with those sections.

Story Recap

Book 2 ended with Patrice Lumumba's Independence speech as the new Prime Minister. Book 3 begins with Orleanna's flashback and story about her courtship and quick marriage to Nathan Price. We learn more of Nathan's backstory before becoming a preacher. The Underdowns have fled the Congo and Nathan decides the Price family will stay despite any financial support from the mission. The book ends with the family escaping the vicious nsongonya, Leah tells Anatole she loves him and there are plans hatching to assassinate Lumumba.

Discussion Questions

1. How has your opinion of the characters changed now that we see more of their story and they've been in the Congo for awhile?
2. Does Nathan's backstory make you more sympathetic to his behavior? I loved the quote: "If his guilt made him a tyrant before men, it made him like a child before God." How can Nathan be so abusive and righteous at the same time and be two totally different characters? Wouldn't God want Nathan to be more kind and understanding to His people?
3. Orleanna confides that when Rachel, Leah and Adah were babies, she was so busy being a mother that she "encountered my own spirit less and less." Have you ever felt that you've lost your spirit? How did you get it back? How do you find time for yourself?
4. The Congolese believe strongly in curses. Do you think the Price Family is cursed? Are you superstitious?
5. What do you think of Brother Fowles? Why was he kicked out from the mission program? What did you think of his interaction with Nathan?
6. Did you suspect what Tata Ndu's true intentions were when he started visiting and bringing gifts to the Price family? Were you surprised that he wanted Rachel for one of his wives given the tension between blacks and whites?
7. Eben Axelroot: friend or foe?
8. Share some of your favorite quotes from this book.

Source: <https://momssmallvictories.com/>