Book Club Discussion Questions for *A Provincial Peer*

* 1. How does the past shape Caroline’s and Benedict’s identities?
  2. Caroline hides her scars with a veil. How does this symbolize both physical and emotional protection?
  3. What qualities make Benedict a strong romantic lead?
  4. Caroline’s role as a mother adds layers to her individual strength. How does her relationship with Meg shape her decisions?
  5. How does the author use the aftermath of smallpox to shape Caroline’s journey?
  6. How does Meg, Caroline’s daughter, influence the story and the dynamic between her mother and Benedict?
  7. How does the novel explore the concept of self-worth, especially in the face of physical and social challenges?
  8. How important is community support in Caroline’s journey toward healing?
  9. What are the key turning points where characters accept or reject parts of themselves?
  10. How does the rural village of Leyfield contribute to the mood and development of the romance? Could this story have worked in an urban setting, or is the countryside essential?
  11. The ending hints at another possible outbreak of disease. What do you think about Benedict’s willingness to risk being inoculated? What does this say about his character development and the stakes of his relationship with Caroline?
  12. What scene impacted you the most emotionally, and why?