



## **ELLA ENCHANTED DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**HOW IMPORTANT IS INDEPENDENCE AND FREE WILL IN ANY RELATIONSHIP?**

- IF SOMEBODY IS COERCED TO DO THINGS, AS ELLA IS HER ENTIRE LIFE, THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING THEM IS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED.
- IN ANY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP, BOTH PARTNERS NEED TO FEEL FREE AND EQUAL, RATHER THAN SUBSERVIENT AND CONTROLLED.
- INTENTIONAL CONTROLLING BEHAVIOR AND FORCED OBEDIENCE, SUCH AS HOW HATTIE TREATS ELLA, COMES VERY CLOSE TO EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND MANIPULATION.
- PRINCE CHAR, IN SEVERAL INSTANCES, CLARIFIES TO ELLA THAT HE'S NOT TRYING TO GIVE HER COMMANDS AND THAT SHE IS FREE TO DO WHAT SHE WANTS. THAT IS HEALTHY, ROMANTIC LOVE.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFATUATION AND LOVE?**

- HATTIE EXHIBITS STALKER BEHAVIOR TOWARDS HER CELEBRITY CRUSH, PRINCE CHAR.
- PRINCE CHAR IS REPULSED BY THE OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOR, RATHER THAN FINDING IT ENDEARING, AS SHE PROBABLY HOPES AND SEEMS TO EXPECT.
- CHAR IS INSTANTLY ATTRACTED TO ELLA BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T SWOON ALL OVER HIM AND SHE HAS HER OWN OPINIONS.

## **HOW DOES FORCED OBEDIENCE RELATE TO PEOPLE IN THE REAL WORLD?**

- **THE THEMES IN ELLA ENCHANTED CAN BE TIED TO ISSUES OF SLAVERY AND RELATIONAL ABUSE.**
- **ELLA FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE, SO SEEING SEGREGATION AND MISTREATMENT OF OTHER CREATURES FEELS PERSONAL TO HER.**
- **SOME PEOPLE, LIKE PRINCE CHAR, ARE OBLIVIOUS TO PROBLEMS OTHER RACES GO THROUGH BECAUSE THEY DON'T SEE IT IN THEIR OWN LIVES.**

## **SHOULD WE TRY TO CHANGE THE PEOPLE WE LOVE?**

- **ELLA DOESN'T WANT CHAR TO CHANGE WHO HE IS, BUT SHE DOES HELP HIM OPEN HIS EYES SO HE CAN STEP UP TO HIS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**
- **WE SHOULDN'T SET OUT TO CHANGE OUR LOVED ONES, BUT WE SHOULD SEEK PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGE US AND HELP US WANT TO BE OUR BEST SELVES.**

## **HOW DOES FEELING SUBSERVIENT CREATE "DAMSELS IN DISTRESS?"**

- **ELLA IS OFTEN PUT INTO SITUATIONS WHERE SHE NEEDS TO BE SAVED BECAUSE OF COMMANDS SHE'S BEEN GIVEN.**
- **SHE IS HELPLESS WHEN PUT IN THESE SITUATIONS. IT'S NOT UNTIL SHE BREAKS THE CURSE AND SHE HAS SOLE CONTROL OVER HER OWN ACTIONS THAT SHE IS EMPOWERED AND IS ABLE TO SAVE CHAR RATHER THAN BEING THE ONE CONSTANTLY IN NEED OF RESCUING.**
- **GOOD RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVE TAKING TURNS SAVING EACH OTHER FROM VARIOUS SITUATIONS AND PROTECTING EACH OTHER.**

**FOR MORE RESOURCES TO HELP TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS LEARN HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP SKILLS, VISIT [DIBBLEINSTITUTE.ORG](http://DIBBLEINSTITUTE.ORG).**

