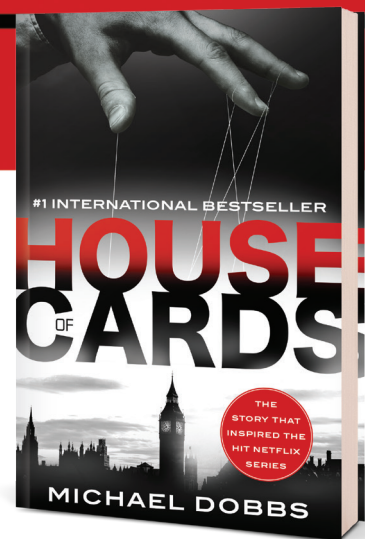


HOUSE OF CARDS

BY MICHAEL DOBBS



1. Which characters challenge the notion that fear is more motivating than respect?
2. When Prime Minister Henry Collingridge is debating his next move after winning a disappointing majority, Francis Urquhart tells him that he should make drastic changes to demonstrate his control, whereas Teddy Williams insists that too much of such change is disruptive (page 56). What advice would you have given the Prime Minister?
3. As in *House of Cards*, news leaks are becoming prevalent in our media. What is your opinion on how news is leaked to the media? Do the ends justify the means?
4. Think about a time when you read a poll or study that you believed to be credible, but which you later found out was fabricated or unreliable. How did your discovery affect your confidence in that publication? How do you assess the credibility of your sources?
5. Describe instances in which you have found Francis Urquhart's words—"there are those who believe that progress is never made without a little discomfort"—to hold true and instances in which discomfort is unnecessary.
6. In what ways has *House of Cards* made you question what you read in opinion polls or in the news?
7. Benjamin Landless describes that a conglomeration of Chronicle Newspapers and the United Newspapers Group would control the majority of national and regional titles as the largest newspaper group in the UK. Discuss the possible pros and cons of having a large news conglomerate run the largest share of a nation's news.
8. Have you ever discovered bias in the news? Describe what you found and how it displayed a bias toward one opinion or viewpoint. How can a newspaper or news station escape bias?
9. How many news outlets do you regularly turn to for breaking or daily news? What are your strategies for making sure that you are getting a round, comprehensive view of today's news?
10. Besides his manipulative edge, what is it about Francis Urquhart's character that keeps him in the public's favor and unsuspected by those searching for answers?
11. Many candidates' campaigns in *House of Cards's* leadership election are ruined when the public finds out about choices they made in their pasts. What criteria do you use to evaluate a candidate running in an election? Which criteria are the most important to you and why?
12. How do you think John Krajewski and Penny Guy responded when they learned of Mattie Storin's untimely death? Would they have suspected Urquhart?
13. Urquhart became consumed by his quest for power and took drastic measures to reach a new political peak. Have you ever been so driven toward a goal that your enthusiasm clouded your judgment? What are some productive ways to reach your goals without stepping on others to get there?
14. How does *House of Cards* reflect or challenge our current media landscape?
15. Most chapters start with a short, sharp introductory statement. Pick out those that you find to be thematic of *House of Cards*. Why have you chosen the ones you have?