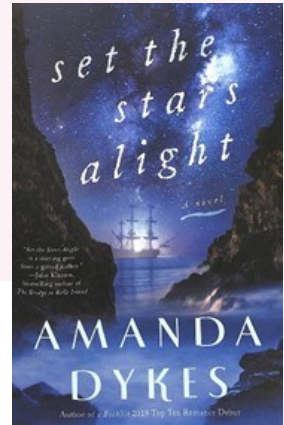




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

SET THE STARS ALIGHT
BY AMANDA DYKES



"The world is dark, so dark we sometimes forget the stars. But they are always there - we need only fight to see these brilliant places of light, these echoes of the truest story. Of a man who gave his life for another - and of a Man, centuries before him, who gave His life for the world. The One who is coming...and coming...and coming after you. Fighting for your heart... He sets the stars alight... And we open our eyes to this in benevolent defiance of the dark... by remembering"

SIMON CLAREMONT



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. Which character from 'Set the Stars Alight' did you relate to the most?

2

Q. Which timeline, London 2002 or East Sussex, England 1802, did you most enjoy? Why?

3

Q. Storytelling and stories are central themes in the novel. Dash says, "They [Lucy's parents] were building us a scaffolding. Story upon story, account after account, of true, impossible things – to uphold the truest story of all, when we would find it later" (p201). How have stories shaped your life?

4

Q. Frederick's declaration, "Take me" (p174), is the epitome of his internal promises to God, Juliette and Elias, incited by his guilt and grief over Juliette's father's passing. Do you think this guilt was his to bear? Why, why not?

5

Q. Elias let Frederick and Juliette down when he promised, "I will do good, I promise. It will not be for nothing" (p215). Who can we truly trust not to let us down? Why?

6

Q. "Tradition is like oxygen around here... So every year, the Shepherd's Bells ring, and we remember" (page 198). What traditions help you to remember significant occasions or events?

7

Q. In chapter 18, Barnabas says, "none of us know quite what to do when something is broken... But if we do nothing, it'll surely stay broken" (p138). How do fellowship and authentic friendships help us heal?

8

Q. Many characters in the novel struggle with a deep and, at times, unfulfilled desire to belong. Can you relate to this yearning?

9

Q. In Chapter 24, Dash says, "It's nice not being constantly connected. It makes us... more connected, ironically" (p194). Discuss.

10

Q. "The stars are magnificent, Lucy...But no more magnificent than the ground beneath our feet, where life grows from dirt and sunlight. Or the depths of the ocean. Or the very air we breathe. It all points to the same truth" (201). Discuss.



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