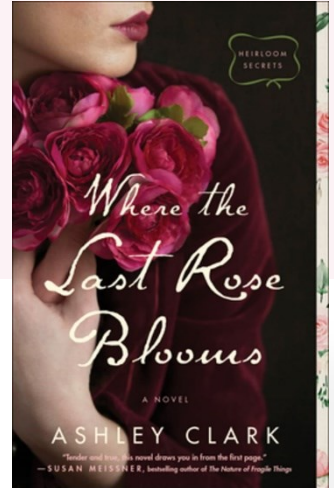




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WHERE THE LAST ROSE BLOOMS BY ASHLEY CLARK



"From the broken ground, somehow those delicate, vibrant petals came anew, offering a fragrance that might catch on the breeze and carry down the street to where the bluebirds flew. And that rosebush carries with it a heritage, too – from the ground where the last rose blooms."

CLARA ADELAIDE ABEL



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Q. "Flowers are a symbol of femininity - how that which is delicate can also be strong" (p9). Many of the women in 'Where the Rose Blooms' show incredible strength. Which character did you relate to the most? Why?

2

Q. Which timeline, New Orleans Modern Day or Charleston 1860s, did you most enjoy? Why?

3

Q. We're blessed to live in the twenty-first century, where the equality gap between men and women has significantly shrunk. What shocked you most about the attitudes towards women in the 1860s?

4

Q. The Victorian language of flowers plays a significant role in the story. What intrigued you most about this method of espionage?

5

Q. On page 43, Clara realises that she must take a side; she can no longer live apathetically. Discuss.

6

Q. On page 110, Juliet says, "People deserve to know the whole truth about their families, no matter how painful it may be". Do you agree?

7

Q. Clara loves Jane Austen novels. Which Jane Austen novel is your favourite? Why?

8

Q. Alice, in her distress, wonders, "Where is God in all of this?" (p104). How can we trust God is present in our grief, even if we can't *feel* His presence?

9

Q. "Let's just say, I don't like a story without an ending" (p126). Can you relate to Alice's need to know or control things?

10

Q. On page 113, Ashley says, "Maybe we all got a bigger story." Discuss.



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