



PARTICIANAT GUIDE

A CASTAWAY IN CORNWALL
BY JULIE KLASSEN



"Sometimes I wonder how I ended up here in Cornwall, so far from my childhood home. I feel like a castaway, set adrift on the tide by the long-ago deaths of my parents, and left wanting answers."

LAURA CALLAWAY



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Q. Who was your favourite character from 'A Castaway from Cornwall'? Why?

2

Q. Laura has lived in Cornwall for much of her life but feels like an outsider. Do you think Laura's attitude prevents her from experiencing a sense of belonging, or is it more so the distrust of outsiders by Cornwall residents?

3

Q. Laura feels angry, betrayed and abandoned by her parents (p83). How does reading her mother's letter help her to heal? Can you relate to Laura's experience?

4

Q. Laura wonders, "Does God truly hold my fate in His hands, or has my entire life all been happenstance? (p8). Discuss.

5

Q. Throughout the story, many good people are revealed to be working alongside smugglers to provide food for their families, while others do dishonest work for personal gain. Discuss.

6

Q. Alexander and Francois's motto for friendship is, "Friends share everything." How is the theme of friendship explored in this novel?

7

Q. Betrayal and forgiveness are themes in *A Castaway in Cornwall*. Why can it be so challenging to forgive someone who has betrayed us?

8

Q. As Alexander returns home, he struggles with deciding whether to marry Leonie, his brother's widow and wonders, "Where did his duty lie?" (p353). Can you relate to his sense of duty? Have you ever had to sacrifice something for the benefit of another?

9

Q. What did you find fascinating about Cornwall in the 1800s?

10

Q. At the novel's start, Laura is a self-described castaway, while Alexander is physically shipwrecked. By the completion of this story, the two castaways have found a home within one another. What was your favourite part of their story?



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