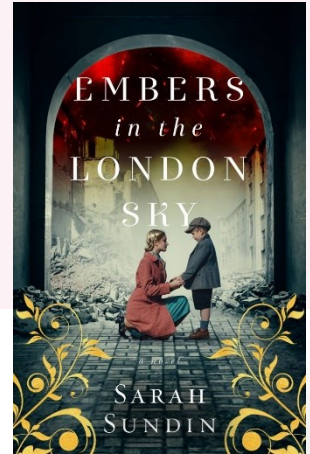




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

EMBERS IN THE LONDON SKY BY SARAH SUNDIN



"Who gets to decide what is worthy of news? The reporter? The editor? The paper or radio network? The government? Or the public? And if we agree it's the public, who speaks for the public?"

LOUISA JONES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1

Q. Aleida is a strong, brilliant, and meticulously minded woman. How do these traits serve her well when faced with her greatest hardship of losing her son? How do they affect her negatively?

2

Q. Hugh lives with a crippling fear that his chronic asthma will prevent him from being accepted or doing something truly worthwhile with his life and at the beginning of the novel, he is told on the battlefield, "You don't belong here" (p 25). How does Hugh grow throughout the story?

3

Q. Q. Censorship is a major theme throughout the novel. Discuss the quote, "Who gets to decide what is worthy of news? The reporter? The editor? The paper or radio network? The government? Or the public?". What are the negative impacts associated with censorship? Are there any positives?

4

Q. Storytelling is an effective way to cultivate empathy, as well as create a new narrative around belief systems or circumstances. How do Hugh and Aleida strive to tell important stories? What prejudice do they need to overcome?

5

Q. "If one wishes not to live in a state of despair, one must train one's mind toward the good..." (p32). How do the characters in this story fight despair? How can we?

6

Q. *Rechtdoorzee* is a Dutch word that means "straight through the sea", and in the context of personality, means that a person is straightforward or outspoken. Can you think of a time when Hugh or Aleida were outspoken for the good of others?

7

Q. "Having someone to comfort can serve as the best comfort of all" (p113). How is this true in the novel? Has this been true in your life?

8

Q. Aielda struggles to trust Hugh and to trust herself. Why is this? How does she overcome her fear of betrayal and learn to trust again? What are some of the warning signs that a person is not safe?

9

Q. On page 262, Aleida does the unthinkable task of a loving mother and surrenders her boy Theo to Mr and Mrs Martens. Discuss her journey of surrender and how God comforted her. Do you think you could have made that decision?

10

Q. Who did you suspect as the murderer, and what was the biggest point of tension in the story for you?



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