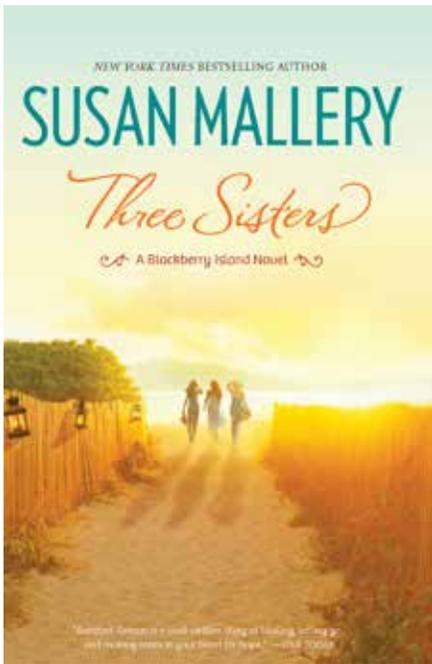


THREE SISTERS

Readers' Group Guide



1. THE THREE SISTERS IN THE BOOK ARE THE THREE HOUSES ATOP THE HIGHEST HILL ON BLACKBERRY ISLAND. IN WHAT WAY DOES EACH HOUSE REFLECT ITS OWNER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE IN A VICTORIAN HOME THAT IS MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHICH HOUSE WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN AND WHY?

2. ANDI WAS LEFT AT THE ALTAR BY A MAN SHE'D DATED FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD'VE REACTED IF THIS HAD HAPPENED TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ANDI'S DECISION TO MOVE TO BLACKBERRY ISLAND, WHERE SHE HAD NO SUPPORT STRUCTURE IN PLACE BECAUSE SHE KNEW NO ONE?

3. WITH WHICH OF THE THREE WOMEN DID YOU EMPATHIZE MOST STRONGLY? WHY? DID YOUR FEELINGS CHANGE AS THE STORY PROGRESSED? WHAT DID THE WOMEN HAVE IN COMMON BESIDES GEOGRAPHY?

4. WHICH CHARACTER CHANGED THE MOST? IN WHAT WAY?

5. A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE CONTROL ISSUES LIKE DEANNA, THOUGH NOT TO THE SAME EXTREME. DO YOU THINK SHE KNEW SHE HAD A PROBLEM

BEFORE COLIN CONFRONTED HER WITH HIS UNHAPPINESS? WHY OR WHY NOT? DEANNA'S NEED FOR CONTROL STEMMED FROM HER CHILDHOOD AS THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED DAUGHTER OF AN ALCOHOLIC MOTHER. WHEN DO YOU FEEL THAT DEANNA TRULY BEGAN TRYING TO CHANGE, RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS?

6. MANY COUPLES SPLIT UP AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD BECAUSE THEY GROW APART WHILE LEARNING TO ACCEPT THEIR NEW REALITY. HOW DID BOSTON AND ZEKE REACT DIFFERENTLY TO THEIR SON'S DEATH? DID YOU FEEL THAT ONE OF THEM DEALT WITH THE LOSS MORE APPROPRIATELY THAN THE OTHER? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHY DID BOSTON CONTINUE TO DRAW BLACK AND WHITE PORTRAITS OF LIAM?

7. WADE WAS ANGRY WHEN ANDI DIDN'T DEFEND HIM TO HER MOTHER. ANDI FELT WADE WAS USING THE MOMENT AS AN EXCUSE TO AVOID COMMITMENT. WHO DO YOU THINK WAS RIGHT, AND WHY?

8. SUSAN MALLERY IS KNOWN FOR TAPPING INTO THE HUMOR OF EVEN THE MOST EMOTIONAL SITUATIONS. WHICH SCENES IN THREE SISTERS MADE YOU LAUGH?

9. FEMALE FRIENDSHIP IS AT THE HEART OF THIS STORY, AND YET FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE BOOK, THE WOMEN REALLY DIDN'T INTERACT MUCH. DEANNA'S BREAKDOWN IN BOSTON'S KITCHEN WAS A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. HOW DO YOU THINK THIS SINGLE MOMENT CHANGED THE WOMEN'S UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER? HOW DO YOU THINK THEIR FRIENDSHIP CHANGED EACH WOMAN FROM THAT POINT FORWARD?

10. OVERALL, DO YOU FEEL THIS WAS A SAD BOOK OR A HAPPY BOOK? WHY? DID YOU LIKE THE WAY THREE SISTERS ENDED FOR EACH OF THE CHARACTERS? WHY OR WHY NOT?