



Book Discussion Guide

1. How important is the small-town setting to the novel? Could the same story have been told in an urban setting?
2. How would you define what many of the characters “get” from their relationship with Sera? What do you think Sera receives from her relationships with them?
3. Do you agree with Sera’s decision not to accept further treatment? What would you have done?
4. Do you think Mack will stay on in Lakeville?
5. Which character was your favorite? Why?
6. The friendship between Ruby D. and Sera is unique. What do you think drew the two of them together?
7. Bill is the only person in the story who doesn’t have a strong connection to music or the store. Why do you think he separated himself from Sera’s obvious passion?
8. Do you think Sera belonged with Bill?
9. In the final chapter, does Bill make the right decision about who should take over the store? Who would you have picked? Why?
10. A central theme in the novel is the universal love of music and how it can bring people together. Have you ever experienced this first hand?
11. The characters in the novel are all from different walks of life. However, as the story comes to an end, they do at least try to overcome their distrust. Do you think that evening will change how they interact in the future?
12. Where do you see each of the characters in the next five years?