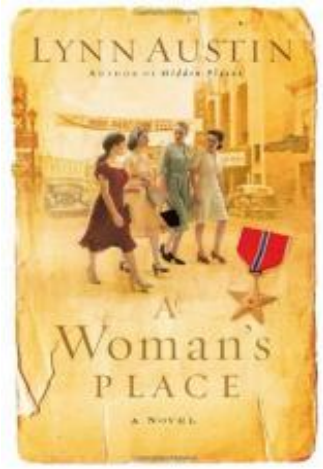
ReadingGroupGuides
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A Woman's Place

by Lynn Austin



About the Book

They watched their sons, their brothers, and their husbands enlist to fight a growing menace across the seas.

And when their nation asked, they answered the call as well...

Virginia longs to find a purpose beyond others' expectations

Helen is driven by a loneliness money can't fulfill

Rosa is desperate to flee her in-laws' rules

Jean hopes to prove herself in a man's world

Under the storm clouds of destruction that threaten America during the early 1940s, this unlikely gathering of women will experience life in sometimes starling new ways as their beliefs are challenged and they struggle toward a new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly mean.

Discussion Guide

1. Which character did you identify with the most: Virginia, Helen, Jean, or Rosa? What about her personality or her life did you relate to?

2. Which character underwent the greatest transformation over the course of the book? What events contributed to that change?

3. How did the historical events in the story act as catalysts for change in these women?s lives? Can you recall any

historical events in your lifetime that affected your beliefs or your outlook on life? Have events such as 9/11 brought about changes in your life?

4. How have women?s roles changed in the past 25 years? The past 50 years? The past 100? Do you see World War II as a defining moment for women? Why or why not?

5. The four women?s personalities were all very different. What word would you use to describe each one? Which women grew the closest to each other? Why was that? Do you believe the four will remain friends after the war?

6. How did each woman?s faith change in the course of the novel? What events influenced her beliefs? How did they change? Which woman?s faith underwent the greatest change?

7. Each of the four women had a man (or men) in her life. Which man (Harold Mitchell, Jimmy Bernard, Meinhard Kesler, Dirk Voorhees, Wolter Voorhees, Russell Benson and Earl Seaborn) did you like the best? Why? Which one did you like the least? Did you change your mind about any of them as the story progressed?

8. Do you think that attitudes toward women have changed since the time when this story took place? In what ways? Have all of these changes been for the better?

9. One of the themes that emerged in the story was the destructive nature of racism. Which characters? lives were impacted by prejudice? How? Did anyone?s biases change because of the events of the story?

10. Choose one character and tell what you think will become of her after the war.

Author Bio

Lynn Austin has sold more than one and a half million copies of her books worldwide. A former teacher who now writes and speaks full-time, she has won eight Christy Awards for her historical fiction and was one of the first inductees into the Christy Award Hall of Fame. One of her novels, HIDDEN PLACES, was made into a Hallmark Channel Original Movie. Lynn and her husband have three grown children and make their home in western Michigan.

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Publication Date: November 1, 2006
Genres: Christian, Historical Fiction
Paperback: 448 pages
Publisher: Bethany House Publishers
ISBN-10: 0764228900
ISBN-13: 9780764228902