Sweet Waters

by Julie Carobini



About the Book

There?s nothing left for Tara Sweet in landlocked Dexton, Missouri. Her fiancé called off their wedding, her sister is moving to Manhattan, and now her mother is marrying a much younger man with plans for a yearlong honeymoon in Europe. Tara believes a move back to her childhood home of Otter Bay, California, will help restore the fun and fearlessness she?s already missing in her twenties. Playing back memories of idyllic times spent there with her father along the majestic coast, a fairytale seems just around the corner.

Better make that a soap opera. After Tara finds a job in Otter Bay, makes friends at The Red Abalone Grill, and perhaps even a new flame in firefighter Josh, she begins to uncover shocking secrets about why her family left this heaven on earth all those years ago. And though she will have to question everything she has ever known, the faith that Tara must depend upon will be sweeter than ever before.

Discussion Guide

1. Tara is known as the leader of the family, the one who is always in control, yet she often looks to a soap-opera diva for guidance. Have you ever sought counsel from an unlikely source? If so, did it help or hurt the situation?

2. What makes someone a wise counselor?

3. Who is there in your life that you would consider your wise counselor? What about that person makes him or her helpful to you?

4. Tara thought when she moved back to her childhood home in Otter Bay, California, life would be peachy. But that was far from reality. Share a time when you did something believing it was the right thing to do--even that God called you to do it--only to find yourself in distress?

5. What do such things teach us about God?s guidance, and His way of helping us grow?

6. What did you learn from Tara?s relationships with her sisters about how siblings get along? Have you had to struggle in your own relationships with your siblings?

7. How has your faith helped you in difficult family situations?

8. How did you feel about Peg?s initial behavior toward Tara and her sisters? How do you react when someone acts in a seemingly unfounded negative way toward you?

9. How does the Bible counsel us to react when we?re attacked by others as Tara was attacked by Peg?

10. How did you feel about Nigel?s skirting of the truth? Did you think him a friend or a foe to Tara?

11. Is there ever a time when it?s right to conceal or ?fudge? the truth?

12. Have you ever taken a big risk, as Tara did? How did it work out for you? What did you learn from your adventure? Would you take the same risk again?

13. In your opinion, what event or events helped Tara finally see the direction her life should take? What are some epiphanies in your own life and how did they change you?

14. How would you describe Tara at the beginning of the story? How do you see her change in the end? Consider the same questions for Josh.

15. Tara refers to the ?life of freedom? God means for his people to have on earth. What do you think she means by that? What might a life that?s less than free look like? Do you think that life can still find hope in heaven?

Author Bio

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