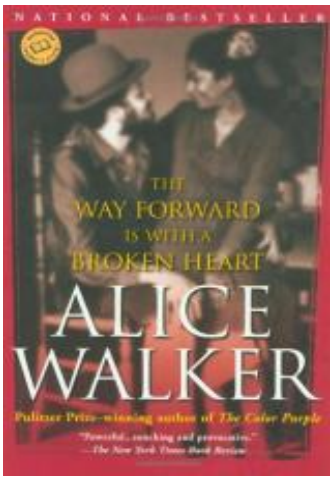
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The Way Forward Is With A Broken Heart

by Alice Walker



About the Book

"These are the stories that came to me to be told after the close of a magical marriage to an extraordinary man that ended in a less-than-magical divorce. I found myself unmoored, unmated, ungrounded in a way that challenged everything I'd ever thought about human relationships. Situated squarely in that terrifying paradise called freedom, precipitously out on so many emotional limbs, it was as if I had been born; and in fact I was being reborn as the woman I was to become."

Discussion Guide

1. In the Jim Crow South, whites had daily, often intimate contact with blacks whom they trusted to work in their homes and care for their children. Given that context, what was their rationale for en-acting laws against interracial marriage?

2. What are some of the societal messages put forth about interracial relationships today?

3. How does the epistolary technique have an impact on the narrative in 'To My Young Husband"?

4. What can be learned from the experiences of biracial children in an increasingly diverse society?

5. In 'Kindred Spirits' the narrator makes reference to Cuban immi-grants in the United States. Discuss the Cuban revolution and its impact on American politics.

6. Discuss the relationship between Marcella, Angel, and Sally as depicted in 'There Was a River.' How would you handle such a scenario?

7. How is the subject of pornography addressed in 'The Brotherhood of the Saved'? Is it possible to limit access to pornography without breaching First Amendment rights?

8. If you brought your gift to Alice Walker, what would it be?

Author Bio

Alice Walker, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, is a canonical figure in American letters. She is the author of THE COLOR PURPLE, THE TEMPLE OF MY FAMILIAR, HORSES MAKE A LANDSCAPE LOOK MORE BEAUTIFUL, THE WAY FORWARD IS WITH A BROKEN HEART, NOW IS THE TIME TO OPEN YOUR HEART, and many other works of fiction, poetry and nonfiction. Her writings have been translated into more than two dozen languages, and more than 15 million copies of her books have been sold worldwide.

Critical Praise

"Goes much further than even The Remains of the Day in its examination of the roles we've had handed to us... His fullest achievement yet."

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