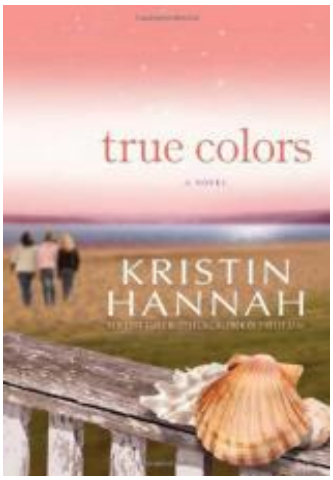
ReadingGroupGuides
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True Colors

by Kristin Hannah



About the Book

The Grey sisters couldn't be more different. Vivi Ann --- the youngest, and more like her father than all three. An animal lover, extremely hard working, and the only one still living on the family farm off of Puget Sound in Washington State. Winona --- a very successful lawyer at the young age of twenty-eight, escaped the rural life to live in the city. And Aurora --- married to a wealthy man, with two children, and obsessed with appearances. But when their family is torn apart by Vivi's love for a dangerous man, all three have to examine their hearts to determine what's important.

Discussion Guide

1. In the novel?s opening scene, Henry pits one daughter against the other by simply handing one a lead rope. Winona realizes the impact of his action and knows that from then on, something in their family is changed. Does her realization change the outcome or solidify it? How does this scene reflect the central conflict in the novel? How do Henry?s choices set in motion the difficulties that lie ahead?

2. Winona, Aurora, and Vivi Ann have similar and idealized perceptions of their mother. How has her absence affected them, separately and collectively? Conversely, each sister has a radically different perception of Henry. Who is the real Henry? Which sister has the most accurate understanding of who he is? Is Henry?s antipathy toward his daughters subject to interpretation or is he as cold and uncaring as he appears?

3. There is obviously a symbiotic relationship between person and place in this novel. What part does the small town setting play in the novel? Could this story have taken place in a big city? What would have played out differently, in your opinion? What would have remained the same? How does the setting reflect the differences between Vivi Ann and Winona? Certainly it appears at first glance that Vivi Ann is more rooted at Water?s Edge and in Oyster Shores than Winona. Is this really true?

4. The Grey sisters would have said that they were happy before Dallas came to town. Is that true? Or was Winona right at fifteen when she observed that ?from then on, jealousy had become an undercurrent, swirling beneath their lives?? Was Dallas actually the cause of their troubles? Was Luke? Or was the disintegration of the family inevitable? Who is most to blame for the bad things that happen to the Grey family?

5. For a long time, Vivi has been ?the beautiful one,? Aurora ?the peacemaker,? and Winona the ?smart one.? How do perceived roles contribute to the hostilities that lie beneath the surface of the family? Is this dynamic at work in most families?

6. Ms. Hannah?s epigraph at the start of the novel is about passion. Why do you think she chose this quote? How does passion, in all its many forms, lie at the very heart of this story? What does the novel have to say ultimately about passion, indulgence, restraint, and denial?

7. How do Winona?s weaknesses and vulnerabilities play into the story? How do her strengths? Do you see her as a likeable character? A good sister?

8. How about Vivi Ann? In what way is she really the architect of her own life? How do her strengths and weaknesses allow for all of the good and bad things in the novel to happen? How would this story have been changed by honesty between the sisters from the beginning?

9. There are several moments in the story when Winona makes difficult choices. Was she right to tell Luke about Vivi Ann?s affair? Should she have represented Dallas at his first trial? Did she deny the case for personal or professional reasons?

10. Noah becomes the first true catalyst for change in the Grey family. Like Vivi Ann, Aurora, and Winona, he has grown up in the shadow of loss. He is a fatherless boy; they are motherless girls. How has Vivi Ann?s parenting hurt Noah and set him on his self destructive path? Is Vivi Ann?s downfall understandable? Regrettable? Unacceptable? If she had been your sister, what would you have done to help her deal with Dallas?s imprisonment?

11. Do you understand Dallas? Or did he remain enigmatic throughout the story? Did your belief in his guilt or innocence change throughout the course of the novel? How much did he contribute to his own legal problems? How did Vivi Ann contribute to them? When did he fall in love with Vivi Ann, and why?

12. Prejudice is an important component of the story. In small, close-knit communities like Oyster Shores, it can often be difficult to be perceived as an outsider. How much of Dallas?s arrest depends upon prejudice? Would he have been arrested as quickly if he?d been ?one of them?? What if he had been white? How much did his own bad reputation in town work against him?

13. Eye witness testimony is often unreliable. This is especially true for minorities and people of color. Why do you think this is? What should we, as a society, do about it? Was Myrtle mistaken in her testimony? Did she simply see what she expected to see?

14. Was Vivi Ann wrong to give up on Dallas? Was Dallas right to ask it of her?

15. How does **True Colors** underscore the power of passion, the dangers of dishonesty, and the possibility of redemption? Who does the story belong to, ultimately, and what is it --- a family drama, an exploration of sisterhood, a legal thriller, a love story, or all of the above?

16. Discuss Henry. Does he change over the course of the story? Does he love his daughters? How did the loss of his wife contribute to the father he has become? Would he change if he could?

17. What was your favorite moment in the book? Favorite character? Which sister most closely reflects who you are and why?

18. Think about the future. How is the Grey family changed by all that they have endured? Where do they go from here? Do Vivi, Noah, and Dallas stay at Water?s Edge? What about Winona? How has she been changed by the journey she has undertaken? Is she still jealous of her sister? Desperate for her father?s love? Will she stay in Oyster Shores? Should she? Will she and Luke make a future together? And what about Noah? For most of his life he?s been able to blame his bad behavior on someone else. What will his life be like now that his father is home?

Author Bio

Kristin Hannah is the award-winning and bestselling author of more than 20 novels, including the international blockbuster, THE NIGHTINGALE, which was named Goodreads Best Historical Fiction novel for 2015 and won the coveted People?s Choice award for best fiction in the same year. Additionally, it was a selection of the Reese Witherspoon Book Club in 2023. It was named a Best Book of the Year by Amazon, iTunes, Buzzfeed, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Paste* and *The Week*. In 2018, THE GREAT ALONE became an instant *New York Times* #1 bestseller and was named the Best Historical Novel of the Year by Goodreads.

THE FOUR WINDS was published in February 2021 and immediately hit #1 on the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and Indie bookstores? bestseller lists. Additionally, it was selected as a book club pick by the both "Today" and the Book of the Month club, which named it the best book of 2021.

THE NIGHTINGALE is currently in production at Tri Star, with Dakota and Elle Fanning set to star. Tri Star has also optioned THE GREAT ALONE, and it is in development. FIREFLY LANE, her beloved novel about two best friends, was the #1 Netflix series around the world, in the week it came out. The popular TV show starred Katherine Heigl and Sarah Chalke, and season two concluded the series in April 2023.

A former attorney, Kristin lives in the Pacific Northwest.

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Publication Date: February 3, 2009

Genres: Fiction

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press

ISBN-10: 0312364105

ISBN-13: 9780312364106