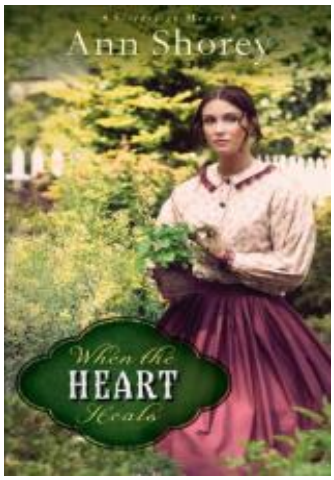
ReadingGroupGuides
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When the Heart Heals: Sisters at Heart, Book 2

by Ann Shorey



About the Book

Courageous and unconventional, Rosemary Saxon served as a nurse during the Civil War, a service that has caused most women in town to regard her as unfeminine and downright vulgar. Although she would like to put her experiences as a nurse behind her, she must support herself. She takes a position with Dr. Elijah Stewart and a mutual attraction begins to develop. But when a sophisticated woman arrives in town claiming to be Elijah's fiancée, a heartbroken Rosemary decides to leave Noble Springs and start fresh. Can Elijah convince her of the mystery woman's deception before he loses her forever?

With tenderness and grace, Ann Shorey invites readers back to the town of Noble Springs, Missouri, for an engrossing story of love's tentative first steps and fragile future in the face of opposition. Readers will find in Rosemary a sympathetic but strong woman determined to thrive in a world that doesn't always understand.

Discussion Guide

1. At the beginning of the story, Rosemary thinks of the owner of West & Riley?s as ?the grocer.? When he tells her to call him by his first name, she gains a friend. How often are we guilty of pigeonholing people by their jobs rather than seeing or getting to know the whole person? Can you share an example from your own experience?

2. Rosemary?s dog, Bodie, plays a part in this story. What did you think of his role? Did he remind you of a pet you?ve loved?

3. Rosemary places great faith in herbal remedies used in conjunction with medical treatment. Some people agreed with her --- others violently disagreed. Did you admire her perseverance? Would you have done the same?

4. Rosemary becomes the victim of a whispering campaign against her. How would you have handled her situation?

5. Curt and Faith both have Rosemary?s best interests at heart when they ask her to live with them. Yet she resists. Do you think she?d have been safer in their home? Is ?safe? always the best choice?

6. When Jacob West decides to court Rosemary, his approach is pragmatic. Would she have been interested in him had she not met Dr. Elijah Stewart?

7. In his medical practice, Dr. Stewart wants to overcome his father?s reputation. Often we can be judged by the actions of family members. Did you agree with how he handled his situation? If not, what would you have done?

8. Do you know of a real-life situation that parallels that of Galen French and Jolene Graves? If so, would you share with the group how the ?real? story ended?

9. Reverend French and his wife have very different reactions to Galen?s choice. Over time, how do you think these relationships will mature?

10. Why do you think Rosemary reacted so hastily to Miss Mason?s announcement? In Rosemary?s place, how would you have handled such news?

11. Forgiveness is a theme that runs through When the Heart Heals. What did you think of Rosemary?s approach to asking forgiveness --- and offering forgiveness --- to others? Is asking forgiveness an easy thing to do?

Author Bio

Ann Shorey is the author of THE EDGE OF LIGHT, THE PROMISE OF MORNING and THE DAWN OF A DREAM. She has also published selections in the *Cup of Comfort* series and in CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE GRANDMA'S SOUL. Shorey lives with her husband, Richard, in Oregon.

Critical Praise

"With mastery and grace, Ann Shorey?s gentle prose woos us back to a simpler time with a simply beautiful love story. Truly, "WHEN THE HEART HEALS is sweet tonic for both the heart and the soul."

? Julie Lessman, award-winning author of *The Daughters of Boston* and *Winds of Change* series

"WHEN THE HEART HEALS is sure to grab your attention. Rosemary Saxon is a memorable heroine in an intriguing story that left me glad I?d read it and looking for more Ann Shorey novels."

? Lauraine Snelling, author of *The Red River* series and the *Wild West Wind* series

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Publication Date: February 15, 2013

Genres: Christian, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, Romance

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Revell

ISBN-10: 0800720733

ISBN-13: 9780800720735