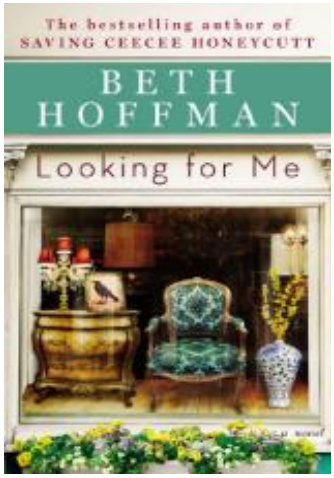
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Looking for Me

by Beth Hoffman



About the Book

Beth Hoffman?s bestselling debut, SAVING CEECEE HONEYCUTT, won admirers and acclaim with its heartwarming story and cast of unforgettably quirky characters. Now her flair for evocative settings and richly drawn Southern personalities shines again in her compelling second novel, LOOKING FOR ME.

Teddi Overman found her life?s passion in turning other people?s castoffs into beautifully restored antiques. Leaving her hardscrabble Kentucky childhood behind, Teddi opens her own store in Charleston. She builds a life as unexpected and quirky as her many customers, but nothing alleviates the haunting uncertainty she?s felt since her brother Josh mysteriously disappeared. When signs emerge that Josh might still be alive, Teddi returns to Kentucky, embarking on a journey that could help her come to terms with her shattered family --- and find herself.

Discussion Guide

1. Teddi follows her dream to work with furniture despite her mother's lack of support, and she works hard to make her vision a reality. Do you have a similar passion or drive?

2. Why did Hoffman choose birds as the animals that mean the most to Josh? What does a bird represent?

3. On page 197, Teddi's grandmother says, "Sometimes it's not what we hold onto that shapes our lives but what we let go of." How does this apply to Teddi? To your own life?

4. Teddi finds a beautiful silk nightgown in her mother's dresser. Why do you think her mother kept it for so many years?

5. The novel is filled with colorful characters. Besides Teddi, who was your favorite and why?

6. Hoffman writes that the difficulty of returning home is that "a piece of us stays behind when we leave-a piece we can never reclaim, one that awaits our next visit and demands that we remember" (page12). Do you agree?

7. Teddi struggles to get her mother to see her for what she really is. Did she succeed? Did you have a similar situation with your own parents? With your own children?

8. Do you think that Josh killed the poacher?

9. Looking beyond the events of the novel, do you imagine that Teddi and Josh will be reunited?

10. In the hospital, Teddi nearly tells her mother that she loves her but decides against it. Why? If she had, how do you think her mother would have reacted?

11. Why does Hoffman end the novel with the word "Menewa"?

Author Bio

Beth Hoffman was the president and owner of a major design studio in Cincinnati, Ohio. She sold her business to pursue writing full time. Beth lives in Newport, Kentucky with her husband and two very smart cats, in a beautiful historic home that she completely renovated.

Critical Praise

"Hoffman's novel of a woman putting the pieces of her family's secrets together combines a deep dramatic impact with Southern charm."
?*Publishers Weekly*

"Hoffman has a good ear for dialogue, and Teddie and her friends are realistic, appealing characters. Perfect for fans of family-centered women?s fiction, this book will have special appeal to readers interested in antiques and 'shabby chic' style."
?*Booklist*

"If you want a charming look at Charleston, a do-it-yourself book on the intricacies and value of furniture restoration, or some evocative reminiscence about good Kentucky home cooking, then LOOKING FOR ME is the book for you. In fact, somewhere in the midst of Beth Hoffman?s pages of this discovery-of-self novel about a young woman named Theodora Overman, you?ll probably want to take a break, head to a nearby yard sale, and pick up a treasure or two of your own to refurbish**.**"
?Bookreporter.com

?After reading LOOKING FOR ME, you?ll never think of Emily Dickinson?s line, 'Hope is the thing with feathers' in

quite the same way again. Sure to be a big hit --- and to spark fabulous conversations with friends and book clubs.??Claire Cook, *New York Times* bestselling author of TIME FLIES

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