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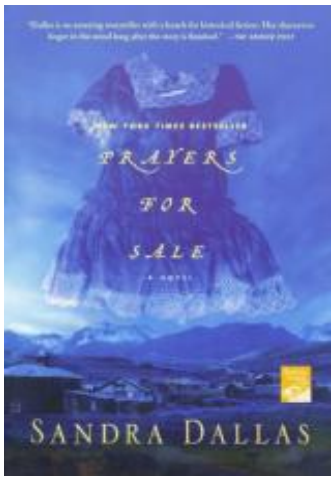
Prayers for Sale

by Sandra Dallas



About the Book

Hennie Comfort is eighty-six and has lived in the mountains of Middle Swan, Colorado since before it was Colorado. Nit Spindle is just seventeen and newly married. She and her husband have just moved to the high country in search of work. It's 1936 and the depression has ravaged the country and Nit and her husband have suffered greatly. Hennie notices the young woman loitering near the old sign outside of her house that promises "Prayers For Sale." Hennie doesn't sell prayers, never has, but there's something about the young woman that she's drawn to. The harsh conditions of life that each have endured create an instant bond and an unlikely friendship is formed, one in which the deepest of hardships are shared and the darkest of secrets are confessed.

Sandra Dallas has created an unforgettable tale of a friendship between two women, one with surprising twists and turns, and one that is ultimately a revelation of the finest parts of the human spirit.

Visit PRAYERS FOR SALE at http://us.macmillan.com/prayersforsale.

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Discussion Guide

1. Hennie Comfort?s sign outside her house says ?Prayers for Sale? and yet she doesn?t sell prayers. Why does Hennie keep the sign?

2. As Hennie begins her story for Nit, she says, ?Back then, I wasn?t Hennie Comfort. In those days, I was called by the name of Ila Mae Stubbs.? What else has changed about Hennie from her teenaged self to her 86-year-old self? More importantly, what has stayed the same?

3. One of the themes of this book is surviving the ?unsurvivable.? What would you consider ?unsurvivable??

4. Another theme is forgiveness. Is there ever a time when forgiveness isn?t possible? Can you relate to the way Hennie forgives at the end of the book --- and who she forgives? In Hennie?s shoes, would you have forgiven? Would Hennie?s life have been different if she had forgiven earlier?

5. What are some of the qualities you see in the women of Middle Swan that help them survive life there? What is the most important quality?

6. Maudie Sarsfield says, ?Quilting keeps me from going queer,? meaning ?insane.? Why would this be so? What is the significance of Maudie adding her initials to her quilts? And what role do quilts and quilting play in the lives of the characters?

7. What is the most tragic aspect of Maudie?s life?

8. What is the most important lesson Hennie teaches Nit Spindle?

9. Is it ever too late to find true love? How do you define true love?

10. Discuss the phrase ?deep enough.? What does it means in the story? What would it mean to you in your own life?

11. Middle Swan is a cold, harsh town. What makes Hennie love it, and why has she stayed all these years? What draws people together in such an environment?

Author Bio

Sandra Dallas is a *New York Times* bestselling author of 20 adult novels, several children's novels, and numerous works of nonfiction about Western subjects. Her work has won numerous awards and prizes, including the Colorado Book Award, and, in 2021, she was inducted into the Colorado Authors' Hall of Fame. A former bureau chief for *Business Week* magazine, Sandra lives in Denver and Georgetown, Colorado, with her husband.

Critical Praise

During the 1930s Depression in the mining mountains of rural Colorado, two women form a close friendship while sharing their dark secrets of the past. Hennie, 86 and a widow, and Nit, 17 and newly married, tell of heartbreak, redemption, and forgiveness in this beautiful story that will deeply move its readers.

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