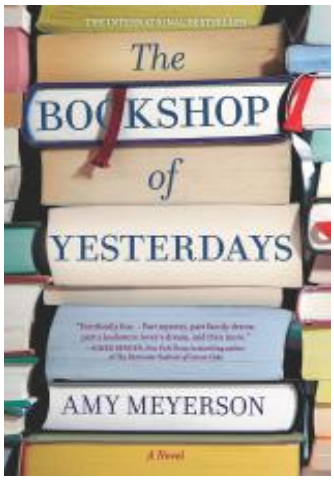
The Bookshop of Yesterdays

by Amy Meyerson



About the Book

Miranda Brooks grew up in the stacks of her eccentric Uncle Billy?s bookstore, solving the inventive scavenger hunts he created just for her. But on Miranda?s 12th birthday, Billy has a mysterious falling-out with her mother and suddenly disappears from Miranda?s life. She doesn?t hear from him again until 16 years later when she receives unexpected news: Billy has died and left her Prospero Books, which is teetering on bankruptcy --- and one final scavenger hunt.

When Miranda returns home to Los Angeles and to Prospero Books --- now as its owner --- she finds clues that Billy has hidden for her inside novels on the store?s shelves, in locked drawers of his apartment upstairs, in the name of the store itself. Miranda becomes determined to save Prospero Books and to solve Billy?s last scavenger hunt. She soon finds herself drawn into a journey where she meets people from Billy?s past, people whose stories reveal a history that Miranda?s mother has kept hidden --- and the terrible secret that tore her family apart.

Bighearted and trenchantly observant, THE BOOKSHOP OF YESTERDAYS is a lyrical story of family, love and the healing power of community. It?s a love letter to reading and bookstores, and a testament to how our histories shape who we become.

Discussion Guide

1. Miranda is forced to face some pretty shocking truths about her family. Were you surprised? What did you think Billy and Susan?s secret was? When did you discover the truth? When do you think Miranda realized the truth?

2. Miranda?s curiosity is piqued when she discovers that Evelyn died of a massive seizure. Did this strike you as suspicious? Does your family have any stories that you?ve always found suspicious?

3. Before Susan tells Miranda the truth of her past, Miranda realizes that no one else from Billy?s journey knows why

Billy and Susan fought. Why does Billy let Susan?s version of their estrangement be the only version Miranda and the reader learn? How does Susan allow us to see the fight from both of their perspectives? Who do you sympathize with? Do you have any estrangements in your family?

4. Throughout the novel, Miranda meets several individuals from Billy?s past. Who is your favorite? Why?

5. We get different perspectives on Billy through the people Miranda meets. What do these versions of Billy have in common? How do they differ? How do they change Miranda?s memory of Billy? What do you think of Billy in response?

6. What impression do you have of Evelyn? How does her untimely death affect the way people remember her?

7. In the novel, Miranda has two love interests, Jay and Malcolm. How are they different? Who do you think is a better fit for her? Do you think she made the right decision?

8. What do you think the fate of Prospero Books is at the end of the novel? What statement does the novel make about independent bookstores? Is there a bookstore that you love?

9. The novel is full of literary references. Which clues are your favorites? Are there any books that you plan to read after reading this novel?

10. In Billy?s last clue from THE TEMPEST, he highlights: *The Rarer action is/In virtue than in vengeance.* Miranda also tells her mother that THE TEMPEST is ultimately a play about forgiveness. How is this a novel about forgiveness?

Author Bio

Amy Meyerson is the acclaimed internationally bestselling author of THE CHAPERONES, THE WATER LIES, THE LOVE SCRIBE, THE IMPERFECTS and THE BOOKSHOP OF YESTERDAYS. Her books have been translated into over a dozen languages and are frequently chosen for best-of lists, including lists from "Good Morning America," *People Magazine*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Library Journal*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and the Texas Library Association?s Lariat List, among others. Meyerson completed her graduate work in creative writing at the University of Southern California, where she now teaches in the writing department.

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Publication Date: May 7, 2019
Genres: Fiction, Women's Fiction
Paperback: 384 pages
Publisher: Park Row
ISBN-10: 0778369080
ISBN-13: 9780778369080