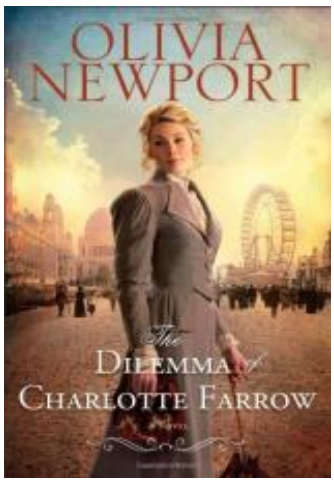
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The Dilemma of Charlotte Farrow: Avenue of Dreams, Book 2

by Olivia Newport



About the Book

The whole world is coming to Chicago. Charlotte?s whole world is coming down around her.

While the rest of Chicago focuses on the enormous spectacle of the 1893 World?s Columbian Exposition, Charlotte Farrow?s attentions are entirely on one small boy --- her boy --- whom she has kept a secret from her wealthy employers for nearly a year.

When the woman who has been caring for her son abruptly returns him to the opulent Banning home, Charlotte must decide whether to come clean and face dismissal or keep her secret while the Bannings decide the child?s fate. Can she face the truth of her past and open her heart to a future of her own? Or will life?s struggles determine her path?

This compelling story of courage, strength and tender romance captures the tension between the glittering wealthy class and the hardworking servants who made their lives comfortable.

Discussion Guide

1. Charlotte struggles to believe she has the ability shape her own future. How much of this do you think was part of her time, when women had limited options, and how much is part of her character?

2. How are Charlotte?s responses to her fears similar or different to how you respond to your fears?

3. What do you think is the deepest value Charlotte holds, and how does it determine the theme of the book? How do your values determine the theme of your life?

4. Describe the strength Archie brings to Charlotte? Identify some people in your life who bring you strength.

5. Archie wants Charlotte to believe that love makes a difference, and hope is possible. What do you think is the link between love and hope in this story and in your own life?

6. What growth do you see in Sarah?s character? What factors do you think influence how an individual grows and changes?

7. Identify three turning points where the story might have been very different if Charlotte had chosen differently.

8. Archie and Emmaline have contrasting understandings of God?s will. Which do you identify with more? What is the most challenging part for you in discerning God?s will?

9. Choose your favorite character and share three words that describe the character and illustrate your choice with events in the story.

10. The 1893 World?s Columbian Exposition was a pivotal event for Chicago, the United States, and even the world. It introduced millions to emerging technologies, including electricity, and social issues such as women?s suffrage. Can you think of an event in recent history that had similar worldwide impact?

Author Bio

Olivia Newport?s novels twist through time to discover where faith and passions meet. Her husband and two adult children provide welcome distraction from the people stomping through her head on their way into her books. She chases joy in stunning Colorado at the foot of the Rockies, where daylilies grow as tall as she is.

Critical Praise

?In the character of Charlotte Farrow, Olivia Newport gives voice to the countless thousands of women in domestic service who were seen but rarely heard. Set with exacting detail in Chicago during the World?s Columbian Exposition, Charlotte?s tale of courage and struggle will keep you on the edge of your seat from the first page to the last.?

? William Tyre, executive director and curator, Glessner House Museum

"Newport?s latest novel, THE DILEMMA OF CHARLOTTE FARROW, provides an enthralling examination of the complex class and gender barriers in nineteenth-century Chicago. Second in the Avenue of Dreams series, this book will find swarms of devoted fans rooting for Charlotte Farrow, a mother forced to make excruciating choices in a world where women have limited options. The storyline is not only unique but also framed by a delicately designed backdrop of both luxury and longing. With timeless themes, Newport gives voice to women across the ages who have found themselves fighting for what matters most, and in the end, readers will join the battle cry."

? Julie Cantrell, *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of INTO THE FREE

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