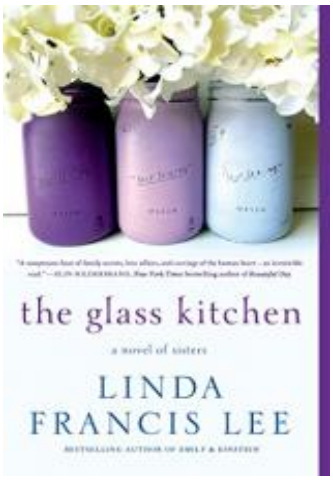
The Glass Kitchen

by Linda Francis Lee



About the Book

Portia Cuthcart never intended to leave Texas. Her dream was to run the Glass Kitchen restaurant her grandmother built decades ago. But after a string of betrayals and the loss of her legacy, Portia is determined to start a new life with her sisters in Manhattan?

When she moves into a dilapidated brownstone on the Upper West Side, she meets 12-year-old Ariel and her widowed father, Gabriel, a man with his hands full trying to raise two daughters on his own. Soon, a promise made to her sisters forces Portia back into a world of magical food and swirling emotions, where she must confront everything she has been running from. What seems so simple on the surface is anything but when long-held secrets are revealed, rivalries exposed, and the promise of new love stirs to life like chocolate mixing with cream.

THE GLASS KITCHEN is a delicious novel, a tempestuous story of a woman washed up on the shores of Manhattan who discovers that a kitchen --- like an island --- can be a refuge, if only she has the courage to give in to the pull of love, the power of forgiveness and accept the complications of what it means to be family.

Discussion Guide

1. There are several instances in which Gram gives Portia cooking guidelines that can be applied more broadly to life in general. What are some examples of this?

2. The feeling Portia gets from discovering her gift is described on page six: ?Suddenly her world made sense, as if she had found a hidden switch, the meaning of what she was supposed to do blazing to life like a Christmas tree lighting up in a burst of color.? Have you ever had an ?a-ha!? moment that felt like this?

3. How would you describe the family dynamic in the Kane household? What role does each family member play? How

would you describe the dynamic between Portia, Olivia and Cordelia?

4. On page 85, Portia describes a time when, after a fight, she and her sisters filled jars with homemade strawberry preserves. She says that, ?the preserves had been the bridge back to each other?? Can you think of times in your own life when the acts of dining or cooking have played a larger role?

5. Did you have any ideas or guesses about what might have happened during the car accident that Ariel was trying so hard to avoid and hide? Were you surprised when Ariel revealed the truth about what happened?

6. On page 147 Portia contrasts New York and Texas in food terms, comparing New York to ?bagels slathered with thick cream cheese? and Texas to ?sweet tea over ice on a hot day?. How would you describe the places you have lived in this way? What food comparisons would you use?

7. What role does setting play? What is the importance and meaning of ?home? to the development of the story?

8. On page 285, Cordelia tells Portia that she ?can?t keep living a half life.? What does Cordelia mean by this? In what ways has Portia been living a ?half life??

9. When Ariel finds her mother?s memory box, she realizes that, ?she couldn?t hide anymore from the stuff she didn?t want to know.? There are several characters that, throughout this story, have trouble facing various truths. Which characters, and what are they hiding from?

10. ?Some things are true whether you believe them or not.? Portia tells Ariel this, and it is repeated several times. Where do we see evidence in support of this statement throughout the story?

Author Bio

Linda Francis Lee is a native Texan now living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The author of 20 books that are published in 20 countries, when Linda isn't writing she loves to run in Central Park and spend time with her husband, family and friends.

Critical Praise

"A gorgeously frothy, romantic confection of a book, with a sprinkling of magic and charm. Sweet, tender, and huge fun."

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