

giving up personal freedom and autonomy?

7. Some modern writers assert that the advances in opportunities for women have been predicated on the requirement that women become more like men. Do you agree with this?
8. Are people more likely to revert to traditional male/female roles in crisis situations? What traditional male/female traits might help a person survive?
9. Author Warren Farrell, who writes about gender issues, has said: "Men's weakness is their façade of strength; women's strength is their façade of weakness." Does this hold true for the characters in THE LIFEBOAT?
10. In his book *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*, Nathaniel Philbrick argues that an "authoritarian" leadership style is useful in the early stages of a disaster, but a "social" style becomes more important over time. Does this dynamic fully explain the power struggle in Lifeboat 14 or were other forces at work?
11. Does power always involve the threat of coercion? Besides violence, what forms of power influence the characters in THE LIFEBOAT?
12. The first thing a person says is often more honest than later explanations. Are there instances in the book where a character's early words are a clue to assessing the truth of a particular situation or incident?
13. Do you think Mr. Hardie stole or helped to steal anything from the sinking *Empress Alexandra*? Would this have been wrong, given that any valuables were destined to be lost forever?
14. Should Grace have been acquitted of Mr. Hardie's murder?
15. Comment on the use of storytelling in the novel. Does your answer shed any light on Grace's own story?

Author Bio

Charlotte Rogan graduated from Princeton University in 1975. She worked at various jobs, mostly in the fields of architecture and engineering, before teaching herself to write and staying home to bring up triplets. An old criminal law text and her childhood experiences among a family of sailors provided inspiration for THE LIFEBOAT, her first novel. After many years in Dallas and a year in Johannesburg, she and her husband now live in Westport, Connecticut.

The Lifeboat

by Charlotte Rogan

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