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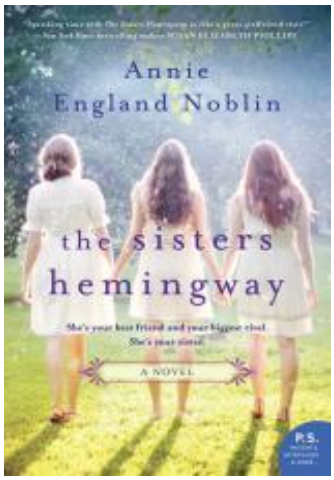
The Sisters Hemingway

by Annie England Noblin



About the Book

The Hemingway Sisters of Cold River, Missouri are local legends. Raised by a mother obsessed with Ernest Hemingway, they were named after the author?s four wives --- Hadley, Pfeiffer, Martha and Mary. The sisters couldn?t be more different --- or more alike. Now they?re back in town, reunited to repair their fractured relationships.

Hadley is the poised, polished wife of a senator.

Pfeiffer is a successful New York book editor.

Martha has skyrocketed to Nashville stardom.

They each have a secret --- a marriage on the rocks, a job lost, a stint in rehab?and they haven?t been together in years.

Together, they must stay in their childhood home, faced with a puzzle that may affect all their futures. As they learn the truth of what happened to their mother --- and their youngest sister, Mary --- they rekindle the bonds they had as children, bonds that have long seemed broken. With the help of neighbors, friends, love interests old and new --- and one endearing and determined Basset Hound --- the Sisters Hemingway learn that the happiness that has appeared so elusive may be right here at home, waiting to be claimed.

Discussion Guide

1. Rachael made the greatest sacrifice for her daughter. To what extent has this sacrifice formed the grown-up personalities of her other daughters?

2. After Pfeiffer loses her job, she seems to lose her identity. How much of your own identity is tied to what you may do

for a living?

3. Each of the present-day sisters left Cold River and ?never looked back?? until now. In what ways does the place you grew up influence the person you are today?

4. Aunt Beatrice chose never to speak out loud, but we learn about her through her diary entries. At one point she says that ?Maryann says all women ought to have a secret or two?? Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

5. Do you think Beatrice ever regretted her decision to take care of the three sisters?

6. Pfeiffer states about Brody that ?Everybody changes,? but also tells her sister Hadley that ?I bet he?s basically the same guy you?ve always known.? Do you think she?s right about him? Do you think this holds true for most people, or not?

7. At one point it?s said that the sisters had spent too many years forgetting about ?the good stuff in the middle? between living and dying. Avoiding love and life. Why is it sometimes easier to be angry in silence than to talk and face the truth?

8. Do you think there was a ghost?

Author Bio

Annie England Noblin graduated with an M.A. in creative writing from Missouri State University and taught English and communications for Arkansas State University in Mountain Home, Arkansas. She spent her free time playing make-believe, feeding stray cats, and working with animal shelters across the country to save homeless dogs.

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