ReadingGroupGuides
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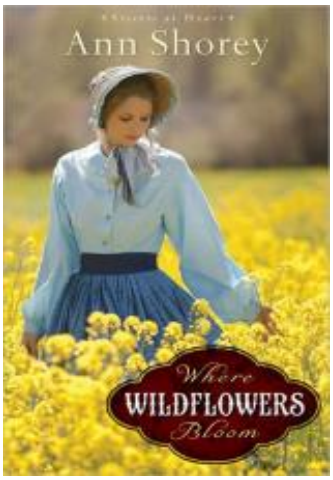
Where Wildflowers Bloom: Sisters at Heart, Book 1

by Ann Shorey



About the Book

How far will she go to follow her dreams?

The Civil War stole a father and brother from Faith Lindberg --- as well as Royal Baxter, the man she wanted to marry. With only her grandfather left, she dreams of leaving Noble Springs, Missouri, and traveling west to Oregon to start a new life, away from the memories that haunt her. But first she must convince her grandfather to sell the family's mercantile and leave a town their family has called home for generations.

When Royal Baxter suddenly returns, Faith allows herself to hope that she and Royal will finally wed. But does he truly love her? Or will another man claim her heart?

Discussion Guide

1. As her grandfather?s only living descendant, Faith is expected to take over his long-established business. She has something far different in mind for her future. Can you think of a time in your life when you were forced to decide between duty and your own desires? What did you do?

2. Faith lost her father and brother in the War Between the States. For her, Noble Springs holds too many reminders of the past. She wants to escape to the west. Can we ever run away from painful memories? Do you think beginning a new life can erase the old?

3. When Faith first meets Curt, she thinks of him as ?the man with the scar.? Do you tend to judge people by first impressions? How does your opinion change as you get to know them better? Or does it?

4. Curt is haunted by his wartime experiences to the extent that they affect his opinion of his own worth. Today we

would call his symptoms Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Do you know someone who suffers from PTSD? How do you interact with him or her?

5. Faith has cherished the dream of marriage to Royal since he left to join the militia when she was sixteen. When he finally returns to Noble Springs, he says he doesn?t remember ever meeting her. How would you react in such a situation? What did you think of Faith?s reaction?

6. When her grandfather has episodes of dementia, Faith makes concrete plans for them to travel west. She believes it?s her responsibility to protect him from painful memories of lost loved ones. Are we ever justified in making decisions for an older adult?s life? When is it acceptable to step in, and when should we step back?

7. Faith doesn?t see herself as attractive. When Royal begins to court her, she?s flattered to be the envy of other single women. Her pride in his attention leads her to ignore warning signals. In our own lives, do we let the opinions of others influence our choices? What are some examples?

8. Faith?s friend, Rosemary, is looked down upon by some in the community for her wartime service as a nurse. Were you surprised to learn that female nurses were held in such low esteem at that time?

9. Friendship plays a big part in Faith?s story. Have you ever had a friend who was there for you no matter what? Can you share an example?

10. Faith?s grandfather has a Bible verse that he?s used to guide his decisions throughout his life. Do you have such a verse? What is it?

Author Bio

Ann Shorey is the author of THE EDGE OF LIGHT, THE PROMISE OF MORNING and THE DAWN OF A DREAM. She has also published selections in the *Cup of Comfort* series and in CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE GRANDMA'S SOUL. Shorey lives with her husband, Richard, in Oregon.

Critical Praise

"WHERE WILDFLOWERS BLOOM invites you to settle down over by the checkerboard at Lindberg?s Mercantile Store and get to know the people of Noble Springs as they put the sorrows of the Civil War behind them and embrace life and love anew. Ann Shorey has come up with an appealing mix of history and romance that readers are sure to enjoy."

--- Ann H. Gabhart, author of THE BLESSED and WORDS SPOKEN TRUE

"The authenticity of WHERE WILDFLOWERS BLOOM transported me straight to post?Civil War times, yet the characters --- their hopes, dreams, conflicts, and fears --- all rang contemporarily true. Another winner from Ann Shorey!"

--- Christina Berry, Christy-nominated and Carol Award?winning author of THE FAMILIAR STRANGER

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Publication Date: January 1, 2012
Genres: Christian, Christian Fiction, Fiction, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, Romance
Paperback: 328 pages
Publisher: Revell
ISBN-10: 0800720741
ISBN-13: 9780800720742