




Book Club: Always Charlie

I love to visit book clubs! Since the publication of *Lily in Bloom* in 2008 and *One True Place* in June of 2010, I have met so many new friends who love to read and discuss books. Just contact me via email or we can set up a phone chat and if you are close enough, I would be delighted to be there in person.

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1. Charlotte Turner and Harrison McMillan seemed destined to find one another again. Do you believe in such things? Is there just one true love in each life?
2. Charlotte was an amazing artist. Do you believe artists have special insight? Do they see things we mere mortals don't?
3. The BP oil spill was anything but funny. Do you think it has a place in a work of light lit?
4. Did you find it interesting that the oil field was named Macondo like the doomed utopia in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*?
5. Did you get a sense of the ripple effect of the oil spill disaster through all the lives along the gulf coast? Discuss the scene in chapter 13 (East Oysterites Unite) where this is shown.

6. Did you enjoy the “French connection” in the story – the fictitious town of Saint-Yves-Sur-Mer?

7. What did you think of the two sisters, Marie and Simone? The story of their water divining and saving their town? Their belief in ghosts? Could the way the supernatural was written into the story be called “magical realism”?

8. What did you think of Liza Jane? Did you see her as Charlotte’s alter-ego? Why?

9. Who was your favorite character? Why?

10. Did you admire Harry’s handling of his predicaments? Both in Provence and in East Oyster? Was he a man of strong conviction or weak and cowardly? How would you have handled the situations?

11. Did you have sympathy for Abbie?

12. Were you sympathetic with Maisy for her past actions?

13. Did you agree more with Charlotte or Chief Foster on the subject of art thefts?

14. Was the character of Butler Finley believable?

15. Did you enjoy the subplots (the pelican destruction, art thefts, Maisy's problems, Liza Jane's "transition", Abbie and Pitt Cottage) or was it confusing?

16. Spoiler alert question! Did you figure out "whodunit" or were you surprised?

17. What were Charlotte's (and Harry's and Liza Jane's) strengths of character? Would this story have had a happy ending without them?

18. What do you think happened to Abbie?

19. Did you enjoy the setting? Did you feel like you were there with the characters?

20. Did the story move quickly enough for you?