




Book Club: Lily In Bloom

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. The theme of *Lily in Bloom* is one of optimism—you just can't keep a good woman down! What personality traits kept Lily blooming through her "category five domestic disaster?"
2. Lily has friends, faith in herself, the ability to see humor in the bleakest of situations, and a big boost in the confidence department in the form of Will, the hunky gardener with the mysterious past. Of these, which was Lily's greatest asset in establishing a new, independent life for herself?
3. Lily must suddenly see almost everything in her life from a different viewpoint. What effect does her ability to do this have on her finding happiness?
4. What roles do loyalty, fortitude and forgiveness play in Lily's story?
5. It has been said that good friends and a sense of humor assure a happy life. Do you agree?

6. How does this apply to Lily in Bloom?

7. *Lily in Bloom* has been called a “coming of age all over again story with insight borne of life already lived.” Do you think that at age 50 Lily is better or less able to cope with being left for another woman?

8. Will said his aunt refereed to him as an old soul. What do you think this means? Did this trait make his relationship with Lily more meaningful and believable?

9. Age is a constant undercurrent in this story. Lily signs her divorce papers on her fiftieth birthday and has a relationship with a person much younger (as does Howard). She was never able to forge a relationship with Mrs. McVay (aka old McVay), yet becomes best friends with the octogenarian, Maisy Downy. She and Helen and Marilee discuss and deal with the realities of getting older. So...

10. Is age just a number?

11. Is 60 really the new 40?

12. Can a 50-year-old woman find happiness with a 34-year-old man?
13. Compare Howard's and Heather's relationship to that of Lily and Will.
14. How does keeping secrets harm relationships among the McVays and between Will and Lily?
15. Lily and Helen and Marilee are very different, yet are the best of friends. Discuss their relationship.
16. Do you agree with Lily's decision to sell the house to Howard and Heather?
17. Was old Mrs. McVay really haunting the house or was it Lily's imagination?
18. Lily in Bloom is "southern" through and through from setting to characters to situations. Could it have taken place in another part of the country? In another country?