




Book Club: One True Place

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. Why do we enjoy reading about regular people reacting heroically to life's challenges?
2. We all know women like True Cowley (and Lily McVay in *Lily in Bloom*) who are forced to reinvent their lives in middle age because of divorce or death of a spouse. Is this occurring with more frequency? Why?
3. What qualities enabled True to succeed in spite of an attention deficit problem and the childhood trauma of becoming orphaned at age four?
4. How important was the relationship with the charming Jackson Bean to True's success?

10. How did you feel about Dr. Burkett Cowley? Was he a good guy with a bad problem? Or just a self-absorbed character?

11. What did you think of Jackson Bean? How would you describe him?

12. Was he even more vulnerable than True?

13. Which character traits caused him to finally unload his "mountain of emotional baggage"?

14. Why do you think he was attracted to True Cowley?

15. Would he and True have fallen in love if they had met at a different time in their lives?

16. How important was a sense of humor to True's and Jackson's challenges?

17. JuJu, the chocolate lab seemed at times to be as much a match-maker as the Honeychurch girls or Maisy. How did the character of JuJu add to the story? Do you think dogs can influence us for good?

18. Do you think the character of Maisy has a "sixth sense" or is she just a very wise, very intuitive person? Did she plan to get True and Jackson together from the start?

19. Belle Hill, Alabama is full of quirky characters. Did you find them believable? Were they fully fleshed out? Which were your favorites?

20. What do you think of Carver's (the old black man who had befriended True's mother) assessment of life with whites in a place like Belle Hill then and now?

21. Did you guess the identity of Juliette Benoit?

22. What did you think of the plot and pacing of the story? Was the plot believable? Did it unfold in a logical, timely manner? Did the story move fast enough for you?

23. Did you enjoy the language? Could you imagine yourself in the settings, such as Oak View and the cottages in the woods?

24. Did you like the way the book was written with short, named chapters?



25. Discuss the themes of the importance of forgiveness and trust and the necessity of optimism and humor in middle age?

26. Who were your favorite characters?

27. Maisy and Dwayne Bond (the over-the-hill, womanizing car wash king) were characters from *Lily in Bloom*. Do you enjoy having characters from a previous story turn up in an entirely different book?