

BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For

Second Hand Rose

by Lin Stepp

1. In early scenes of the book and later ones, Rosalyn talks to her deceased husband Radnor. Did you think that odd? Have you ever talked to a deceased family member or friend?
2. Did you enjoy the scene at Saddle Ridge where Rosalyn McCreary and Kendrick Lanier met? Why do you think the two of them danced as they did on the patio when neither knew the other?
3. An early line in the book, where Kendrick is thinking on p. 45 reads: "There was no way to right some of the injustices life had dealt to him. But he had the ability to change some of hers." What injustices happened to Kendrick that couldn't be righted? What injustices did Kendrick try to right in Rosalyn's life?
4. Did you enjoy Rosalyn's children, Caroline, Davis, and Holly, in this book? What were each like? How were they talented? What humorous or sweet scenes do you best remember about them?
5. Rosalyn feels she and Kendrick are too different in financial status to have a relationship. What scenes in the book tended to show Rosalyn

was right about how people of wealth see situations differently than people of more simple means? In what ways was Rosalyn wrong? How did the scene at the Beels illustrate Rosalyn and Kendrick's differences in this area? Do you think people are different in their outlook and lives because of financial status? How did a shift in financial status change Rosalyn? Have you experienced times in your life where you saw different reactions or understandings in people based primarily on their financial status?

6. Nana McCreary was a stable factor in Rosalyn's and the children's lives. How did she help Rosalyn with many of her problems? How did she also impact Kendrick? What do you think were Nana's greatest strengths?

7. What problems does Rosalyn have with her relative, Colin McCreary? How does Kendrick learn about this? Why does the situation with Colin make Rosalyn want to move? How do the children get involved in this problem and how is it finally resolved?

8. The rose theme played through this novel in several ways, as in the book title, Rosalyn's name and the name of her shop. In what other ways did this theme thread through and impact the book? How did the Madame Hardy rose play a role in the story? And the idea of a rose's sweetness vs thorns?

9. How did Kendrick meet Arthur Jarnigan? What factors created a bond between these men and moved them into business together? In what ways did they help each other?

10. What social stereotypes are often associated with male ballet dancers?

In what ways did Kendrick experience these misunderstandings in Wear's Valley? What factors changed those misunderstandings? Did any stereotypes you held about dancers change as you read this book?

11. How was Kendrick's and Rosalyn's relationship like a dance—playing back and forth, in and out in its development? What often separated Kendrick and Rosalyn and caused arguments between them? What often brought them back together again?

12. Rosalyn had a volatile temper in this book. How did she handle anger issues? What problems did that cause in her life? What things helped Rosalyn to see that she needed to change in this area? How did Nana and Roz's own children help her with this? What spiritual understandings were brought out about this issue?

13. How did Kendrick woo Rosalyn and stay persistent in his pursuit of her? Why do you think she held back so much in moving into a deeper relationship with Kendrick? What things troubled Rosalyn about Kendrick? Why did she hesitate so much about moving into a relationship with him?

14. What factors contributed to the fire starting in Wear's Valley and spreading as it did? Do you think conservation issues like this are a problem in many popular resort areas? Where were Rosalyn and Kendrick when the fire broke out? What happened during the fire? How did this event change the relationship between them?

15. Caroline was a clogger but also took ballet at Charleen's Dance Academy. Why did she want to win the scholarship to the ballet camp? What induced Kendrick to offer to help? What did you enjoy about the scenes with Kendrick and Caroline as they worked together to help her achieve this goal?

16. Kendrick and his family and friends were French. How did that make Kendrick different in this book? How did his cultural background influence his views about meals and cooking, family, passion and love? Did you enjoy his French phrases and ways in this novel?

17. What caused the division between Rosalyn and her family? How was that resolved through the book? How did Kendrick get involved with that family dispute? How did a family invitation he offered, later in the book, almost break up his and Rosalyn's engagement? Do you have any estrangements in your family over past problems that still lie unresolved?

18. What did you enjoy most about this book? Who were your favorite characters and why? What did you like best about the book's ending? Did you enjoy Caroline's diary entry in the epilogue?