

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for *Edisto Song*.

1. As this book begins Suki, or Sarah Katherine Avery, is living in New York City. Now grown and finished with her education, what is Suki's occupation? What orchestra is she getting ready to play with as the story starts? Why is her neighbor Eito concerned about her playing? Have you ever pushed on to work when sick? Why do you think we push ourselves in situations when we shouldn't?
2. Heeding Eito's advice, Suki decides to go early to the Lincoln Center to talk with her agent and manager Jonah Dobrowksi about taking a break after her performance that night. What happens when she seeks out Jonah? Why is this especially shocking to Suki? How did you feel about Jonah after this event? What happens when Suki comes out on stage to perform?
3. Andrew Cavanaugh has been a friend of Suki's since their childhood years. What is Andrew doing with his life now that he's grown? Where does he work? Why did he come to New York to see Suki perform rather than her parents? At the hospital, what does he find out about Suki's health situation? What does he hear Suki telling her agent about continuing on the concert tour? What do you remember about Andrew from past books?
4. Eito Masako, Suki's neighbor, an older Japanese gentlemen who lives with his daughter Mari, son-in-law Ken, and granddaughter Julianne, across the hall from Suki's apartment in New York was a professional *nakodo* for much of his life in Japan. What is a *nakodo*? With a strong success rate in matching couples, how does Eito view Suki's relationship with her agent Jonah Dabrowski? At the hospital he seems glad to see that relationship changing. What does he say to Suki and Andrew about their relationship that surprises them both?
5. As Suki and Andrew talk in the hospital late one night when she is felling better and getting ready to be released, what suggestion does she make to Andrew as they talk about her future? Is Andrew surprised? Were you? What reasons does Suki give for wanting to take this action impulsively rather than waiting? After a discussion what do the two of them decide to do, how and when? Do you think they made a wise decision?
6. Who meets Andrew and Suki at the airport when they return? Drake suggests a meeting of Suki and Andrew's family at Andrew's home in Beaufort. Who gathers at that meeting and what is their reaction to learning Andrew and Suki are married? What event happens for Mary Helen there, adding a new surprise? Andrew and Suki agree to sleep in separate rooms while Suki heals and while the two settle in together. What do you soon learn about their feelings for each other that they don't share with one another? How do they soon resolve these issues and settle in to being a traditionally married couple?

7. Many people don't understand Suki giving up her career but especially her reluctance to play the piano again at all. How does Jonah respond to this news and to Suki and Andrew's marriage? Both their parents are partly appeased by giving a reception later at Claire and Parker's home. How does Suki's best friend from girlhood, Emma, let them know of her disapproval of their marriage at this event and why is she so upset? What plot do Suki, Mary Helen, and Andrew hatch later to try to orchestrate a new relationship for Emma with Orin? How does that backfire, and yet work out for good – for Emma, Orin, Jules, and Harris? Have you ever tried to play matchmaker for any of your friends? How did it work out?

8. What upsetting event happens as Andrew goes in to work to Westcott's Antiques one Monday morning? Who was murdered? Why did the murder reflect badly on Westcott's and its employees? Why did the investigation drag on and on with no resolution as the book continues? How did Coralee Jefferson's angry visit later to Westcott's reveal a new problem for the store? In what way did Ewing Holbert and Brewer Addison aid in explaining the jewelry thefts? What remembrances, that Janine shared with Andrew, helped to turn the tide in revealing a motive for the murder? What did Andrew learn was going on in his store and in Sonny Donelson's store? Why didn't these new understandings resolve the thefts and murder at that time? Do you think Andrew's prayers in the church helped these situations to come to light?

9. While Andrew was embroiled with the investigation at Westcott's, Suki was dealing with her fears and disturbing dreams about the piano. How does Kizzy Helton help Suki in understanding these dreams? How does she counsel Suki about not allowing fear into her life and not using her talents? Suki, upset, replies, *"I feel bad enough without you rebuking me,"* Kizzy answers, *"Perhaps you need rebuking rather than folks pampering you and feeling sorry for you."* What did you think about her counsel and prayers for Suki? How did Kizzy later help Suki again when Suki phones her about yet another dream? Did she follow Suki's advice to go to the church? What happened there? Why was this a hard thing for Suki to do? Have you ever experienced a strong fear that negatively impacted your life?

10. Who is Morgan Dillon and what part has he played in Suki's life? When Suki goes to play in the church, why is Morgan there and how does he react to hearing her play? What type of music does Suki feel led to play this first time again at the piano? How does Morgan not only show support for Suki but also give her good Godly counsel about her life and talents? What hymn do they play together? What piece do they later play together at the concert, bringing Suki another victory over her fears? Have you ever known anyone in your life who has given you good, wise, and loving counsel when you needed it?

11. In this book you learn a lot about Andrew's and his mother Nora's past. What broke up his mother and father Hayden Cavanaugh's marriage? Where did Nora move when she left Andrew's father? How did she end up working at Westcott's? How did Andrew's father's family respond to Nora and to Andrew over the divorce?

Do you think it is sometimes difficult for families to see wrong in their children, even when they are grown? How does Andrew's grandmother Lydia Cavanaugh later reach out and try to restore peace with Andrew and Nora?

12. Andrew grew up with a single mother, living very modestly. Now he is well to do with two homes—one in Beaufort and one at Edisto. How did he end up with the house in Beaufort? Do you remember from the earlier book *Return to Edisto* how Andrew learned *The Sandpiper* was for sale at Edisto and how he was able to buy it? While Andrew worries that his mother has had to struggle, she maintains "*We never struggled ... I consider my life a series of blessings.*" What did you think about her attitude about her life and how she raised Andrew?

13. Mary Helen and Suki have always been close as sisters, even if different in age and interests. How is Mary Helen a help to Suki in this book with advice she gives and love and acceptance she offers? How is Suki also a help to Mary Helen with her new baby? Did you enjoy watching how these two sisters grew and changed over the three books in this series? Do you have a sister or sisters you are close to? What is your relationship like with them?

14. Andrew has always hoped his mother might meet a good man and remarry. After he marries Suki, he begins to notice some subtle differences in the interactions between his mother and Drake Jenkins. When Eito Masoko comes to Edisto for a visit, he suggests that Drake and Andrew's mother would be a good match. How do Nora and Drake respond to Eito's idea? What do Andrew and Suki think about it?

15. When Drake and Nora go to an estate sale on a buying trip for the store, they seem to disappear. Parker and Andrew go looking for them, anxious and upset. Where are Drake and Nora found? What happened to them? How does this event begin to further resolve the thefts and murder that have been going on in Beaufort? Additionally, what announcement does Drake make about his and Nora's relationship after they are found? What did Andrew think about this?

16. Bruce Steele, with multiple aliases, who seems to have been behind both the murder of Marvin Donelson and the thefts and murder at the Donelson's store and at Westcott's totally disappears once again after the estate sale. How is he later captured? What do you learn about him and about his background? What part did his girlfriend play in the crimes? Have you ever thought, like Suki, that it's a shame clever criminals don't employ their talents to something useful?

17. When Suki goes to perform at the Atlanta Symphony, she and Andrew have dinner before the show with Morgan Dillon and a friend. Who does the friend turn out to be professionally? What offer does she make to Suki? What does Suki think about Ellen Rettenbaum and does she take Ellen up on her offer to represent her? How is this a good second chance for Suki with her career at this time?

18. In the final chapter all the old friends from Edisto get together on the Mikells' porch for one of their cookouts. Who is there? What announcement are they celebrating? What things do Suki and Andrew share with each other afterward as they walk up the beach? What impulsive thing do they do, reminiscent of a younger time in their lives? Did you enjoy how this story and this trilogy, following the lives of Claire and her daughters, ended? What did you most enjoy about this book?