

Restless
in
Carolina

A Novel

Tamara Leigh



MULTNOMAH
BOOKS

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Readers Guide

1. Due to the death of her husband, Bridget has a problem with reading aloud the conclusion to all good, romantically minded fairy tales: “And they lived happily ever after.” Are there words or memories or activities from which you distance yourself in order to avoid dealing with pain? What action might you take to air the pain and move on?
2. Bridget’s sister believes grief is contagious. What do you think? Do you believe Bonnie did the right thing in confronting Bridget and demanding she rid herself of her widow’s weeds?
3. Bridget is environmentally conscious, as evidenced by the steps she takes to lessen her impact on the environment and her reaction to others who litter and waste. What steps have you taken to be a good steward of God’s creation?
4. In this third and final book in the Southern Discomfort series, readers continue to witness the path of dementia as Uncle Obe’s memory and ability to care for himself further deteriorate. How have his experiences and those of his caretakers impacted your understanding of this painfully debilitating disease?
5. Why do you think Uncle Obe is able to recite Scripture “without stumbling” and yet struggles with the names of everyday items?
6. When Uncle Obe asks Bridget to pray for him, she grudgingly agrees despite her attempt to keep God on the other side of the door. Have you ever been asked to pray for someone though you didn’t feel moved to do so? Did you pray? If so, how did it feel?

7. For a while, Bridget is the primary caregiver of her niece and nephew. In accepting this responsibility, she also has to accept the task of disciplining the children. Have you had to be a stand-in parent? How did you deal with the issue of discipline?
8. Bridget's assumption that J.C. inherited his wealth is based mostly on appearances. When have your assumptions about others proven wrong? On what did you base those assumptions? How could you have better acquainted yourself with the person?
9. Bridget's mother takes ill, causing Bridget to confront God and ask if He intends to take her mother from her as He took her husband. Though Bridget finds herself in a narrow place on the journey back to faith, she resists the temptation to jump off and instead draws nearer to God. Have you ever found yourself in such a narrow place? Were you able to stay the course? If so, what was God's answer, and how did you deal with it? If not, where are you now in your relationship with God?
10. When J.C. belatedly reveals his deception, the rift that opens between Bridget and him has the potential to destroy their feelings for each other. What situation have you been in that you believe would have benefitted from the truth being revealed earlier? How might it have turned out better?