

THE
BRIDE
WORE
BLUE

A Novel

MONA
HODGSON

Book Three

The Sinclair Sisters of Cripple Creek



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P R E S S

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All Scripture quotations or paraphrases are taken from the King James Version.

This is a work of fiction. Apart from well-known people, events, and locales that figure into the narrative, all names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

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READERS GUIDE

1. Vivian is the *baby* in the Sinclair family and the last of the four sisters to make the move west. One of Vivian's defining characteristics—and her defining struggle—is her natural rebellion. What's good about Vivian's determination to stand on her own two feet? What's bad about it? What emotional state led her to make independence her highest goal?
2. Deputy Carter Alwyn struggles to live up to his father's law enforcement legacy. When in your life have you felt the pressure to perform? Did you eventually discover God's will for you in that circumstance?
3. Vivian's disappearance and the discovery of her association with the brothel create tension between Ida, Kat, and Nell. What are some emotions or situations that often cause friction between siblings? What strategies did the Sinclair sisters use for reconciliation?
4. Under the weight of shame, Vivian feels unlovable and, therefore, doesn't consider herself marriage material. But God brings Carter into her life, and Vivian falls in love with him despite feeling unworthy of his love. Has God ever brought someone into your life who surprised you with an outpouring of grace?
5. The "good people" of Cripple Creek look down on the "other women" and, by association, Vivian. Do you rate some sin worse than others? What does Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:9 say about God's view of sin?

6. Vivian is influenced by many different people in this book, including, her sisters—Kat, Nell, and Ida; Aunt Alma; Opal; Hattie; and Carter. How does their influence affect her? What qualities do you look for in a mentor?
7. Vivian is descending into a life of secrets, lying to the very people who love her and could help her heal from her mistakes. Often it takes a crisis, hitting rock bottom, before a person recognizes the need for repentance and change. What was the turning point for Vivian? Like Vivian, have you ever faced a crisis that sent you in a new direction, giving you a fresh start?
8. Doc Susie is a historical figure who lived in Cripple Creek at the time this story takes place. Dr. Susan Anderson contracted tuberculosis while in medical school. Still, she returned to Colorado to practice medicine in mining camps. What qualities do you imagine Doc Susie must have possessed that made it possible for her to become a successful female physician in this era?
9. Vivian is updating the records in the family Bible. Is there a family Bible in your household? Is anyone in your family tending to the family tree? What does legacy mean to you?
10. Which of the Sinclair sisters do you identify with most? Feisty, stubborn Kat? Gentle, romantic Nell? Ambitious, determined Ida? Independent, misdirected Vivian? What about that sister draws you? Why?

Mona is available for book club conference calls where she joins your book club for a pre-scheduled fifteen-to-twenty-minute conversation via speakerphone or Skype. When possible, she's happy to add an "in person" visit to a book club in a city she's visiting. For more information, please contact Mona through her website: www.monahodgson.com.