



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

1. In 1920s America, there was significant prejudice against Italians; we see that prejudice in Elsa's own family. What does Rafe represent to Elsa on the night they meet? Is it simply sex and loneliness? Or do you think there's something deeper involved? Another small defiance against her parents' small-mindedness? What does it say about Elsa that she went with Rafe so willingly?
2. Motherhood changes Elsa in almost every way. What does she learn by becoming a mother? What does she learn about motherhood from Rose? How does motherhood strengthen a woman? How does it weaken her? How does Elsa remain "herself" after giving birth? How does she change?
3. There is a strong thread running through this novel about man's connection to the land. During the Dust Bowl, while many families went west in search of work and a better life, most of them stayed behind on their parched farms. Why do you think that is?
4. What bonds Loreda and her father? What dreams do they share? Do they intend to exclude Elsa, whom they perceive as just a workhorse? Or is she partially to blame for being ostracized? How does her lack of self-esteem color her relationships with her husband and eldest child?
5. What do Jack and the Communist union organizers offer the migrant workers, and Loreda in particular? Why is it a risk to associate with them, and what is Elsa's hesitation?
6. Why was it so important for Loreda to get her mother back to Texas, even if at such a high cost? How did she finally come to understand her mother and her choices through a new lens?
7. Did you find the end of Elsa's and her family's journey satisfying? Where do you think Ant and Loreda ended up? How do you see Loreda's life being like her mother's? How will it be different?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/the-four-winds/guide>
for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Kristin Hannah is an award-winning and bestselling author of more than 20 novels including the international blockbuster, *The Nightingale*, *Winter Garden*, *Night Road*, and *Firefly Lane*.

Kristin is a former-lawyer-turned writer who lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband. Her novel, *Firefly Lane*, became a runaway bestseller in 2009, a touchstone novel that brought women together, and *The Nightingale*, in 2015 was voted a best book of the year by Amazon, BuzzFeed, iTunes, *Library Journal*, *Paste*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Week*. Additionally, the novel won the coveted Goodreads and People's Choice Awards. The audiobook of *The Nightingale* won the Audiobook of the Year Award in the fiction category.

From author website: <https://kristinhannah.com/about-kristin-bio/>

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