

The Truth About Love and Lightning by Susan McBride

Book Club Questions

- (1) What do you think is worse: telling lies, like Gretchen, or being so blunt it's hurtful, like Annika? Have you ever told a lie to spare someone's feelings?
- (2) How is Abigail's situation similar to her mother's situation nearly forty years before? How does Gretchen's raising her as a single parent affect the choices Abby makes?
- (3) Why do all the Brink women jump to the conclusion that the stranger who "fell from the sky" is Sam Winston?
- (4) Have you ever had someone from your past—a lost love, perhaps—appear from out of the blue? How did it affect you?
- (5) How does the loss of one sense cause other senses to sharpen? Do you think Bennie and Trudy see themselves as anything other than normal as clearly Gretchen finds their heightened senses extraordinary?
- (6) Are there really magic men (or women), like Hank Littlefoot, who can "make it rain" or otherwise influence our surroundings? Do you believe in the supernatural?
- (7) What is it about the walnut farm that keeps drawing its inhabitants home? Is it something paranormal or more of an emotional pull?
- (8) What is the significance of the weather throughout the story, particularly the "walnut rain"?
- (9) Have you ever realized you truly loved someone only after it's too late, as is the case with Gretchen and Sam? Do you believe in soul mates?
- (10) Was Gretchen wrong to not tell Abby the truth in the end?