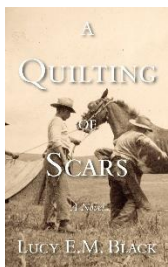


## BOOK-CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR A QUILTING OF SCARS

*A Quilting of Scars* deals with aging and remorse as well as the importance of living your truth. Larkin considers himself to be a secret-keeper, but those secrets have meant that he has lived a solitary life. Fear of exposure is at the heart of the novel, along with the desire to reconcile past events with the conscious decisions made about how to live one's life.

1. The structure of this novel takes place over the course of one long afternoon and evening. There are no chapter breaks in an attempt to parallel the protracted reflections. Discuss the effectiveness of the structure of the novel. Did it enhance your reading of the story?
2. The impact of childhood trauma is central to the novel. Discuss the significance of this with respect to your own memories or those of someone you may know. Did you feel that Larkin's responses were believable?
3. Of the characters in the novel, is there one that you wish you had heard from more often? Share your thinking.
4. Secrecy is an important feature of the story in ways that are significant to the relationships between characters. Share some of the moments where secrets played a notable role. Is there something we can learn from this?
5. If you had to describe the theme of the novel to someone, what would you select as a memorable aspect of the narrative?
6. Historical events are integral to the underpinning of the novel. Do you believe that these are treated respectfully and in enough detail to create a sense of verisimilitude (the appearance of being true or real)?
7. As we mature, we assimilate and accumulate life experience and wisdom. Did any of the characters say or act in ways which resonated with you as being helpful, true or wise?
8. The bond between Larkin and Paul is a complex and multi-layered relationship. Discuss aspects of their friendship and loyalty to each other.
9. Larkin has a very close relationship with both of his parents and yet he chooses to keep significant aspects of his personal life from them. Why do you think this is so?
10. From a scrap book, we learn the details of a 'murder mystery' that is significant to the novel. How important to the effectiveness of the whole is this aspect of the plot?
11. Quilts and quilting are mentioned throughout the novel and are also used in terms of Larkin piecing together his memories and thoughts. Discuss the metaphorical significance of the quilts to the story.



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