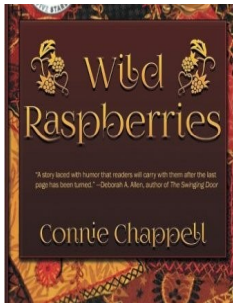




Discussion Guide



About the Book

Book Title: Wild Raspberries

Author: Connie Chappell

Published: Black Rose Writing: 2015

Author Website: www.conniechappell.com

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. This book tells the story of two women who loved the same man, Callie and Arnett. Which of the women did you most identify with and why?
3. How did the two women deal with the dying man? What were the differences in their approach and why?
4. Grief impacted several of characters in significant ways. How did you find the author's treatment of grief? Would this book be helpful for people grieving the loss of their lover, spouse or child? Why or why not?
5. What did you think of the memory quilt making in this book? Have you any connections with quilting? How did that add to the story?
6. What was the significance of wild raspberries?
7. Did you think this was a plausible story? Why or why not?
8. The author has won two awards for this book... the 2016 Maxy Literary Fiction Award and the 2016 Women's Fiction Reader's Choice Award. What do you think makes this book worthy of these awards?
9. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
10. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?

Check out Chappell's webpage for short YouTube videos on a variety of topics related to the book, such as... "Story Behind Wild Raspberries' Title | Connie Chappell, Author," and "Wild Raspberries Wins Maxy Award | Connie Chappell, Author."



NANCY: I found myself engrossed in this story from the beginning, and the action continued to captivate me as the post mortem love triangle played itself out. The strong characters drew me in, as I particularly felt sympathy for Callie, Liz and Beebee. The author does great descriptions with intriguing details and some interesting side characters. I'm impressed with her work and how she is doing, both in content and quality as her career takes off. She seems to be hitting the ground running, winning several awards with this book already and has four more books in various stages of completion, a prolific writer who has a bright future.



SALLIE: Well, I loved how the book really revolved around the little boy, Chad. The deceased's concerns lived on through Callie's resolve to make peace on his behalf, while the mother and grandmother also were motivated by their love for the little boy.



ABIGAIL: I found Arnette's character particularly harsh and perhaps a little unrealistic. In the end, we found some warmth in the old lady, but she seemed to be rather icy at the beginning. Would an old lady really get that violent? Certainly her anger is understandable, but she didn't really love the man either, so I found her perspective problematic. On the other hand, people can be difficult and maybe she was the most realistic in the book. Just not sure about her! I certainly didn't like her.



MOLLY: This whole realm of long term affairs without divorce is a messy situation. I don't really like the story line here. I would prefer a book on a different topic. I don't believe in divorce, but in this situation, if John/Jack and Arnett weren't going to have a real relationship, they should have divorced and given Callie a chance for an above board love. I know this happens. I just don't like it.



PRISCILLA: I enjoyed the quilts! So cool to have these memory quilts. I would like to learn how to make these. I wish I had one of my mother's clothes. Such a comfort to the grieving. That was my favorite part of this book. I love how Chappell wove the story around the quilts, and even the one for Beebee. Very cool.



KATHARINE: Since my husband and I have enjoyed golfing together, I was intrigued with the theme of golfing in this book. Something, obviously Jack and Callie shared, which defined and filled their life together. Although really, I wish there could have been a little more about the actual game of golf, rather than just using it as a back drop.



JANE: You know I always like the strong woman character and so I liked the Callie character. Although I didn't like her giving up her own career for this affair, I did like that she fought for her love and followed it through to the end, and continued to fight for what he would have wanted after his death. A strong lady.