

Finding Love on Whidbey Island, Washington

by Annette M. Irby

Book three in the **Washington Island Romance** series

Book Club questions

1. Long ago, Liberty gave up her baby for adoption. Have you or someone you've known closely given up a baby for adoption? What do you remember the most about the experience? What was the emotional impact?

2. Clay has spent years not knowing what happened to his and Liberty's child. Have you ever known a situation like this, whether personally or through friendships? Do you think men have a disadvantage in regards to babies they've fathered? In what ways is that challenging? Do you think Liberty did the right thing keeping her pregnancy's outcome from Clay?

3. In Washington State, during the time this novel was written, if a father rejects his responsibility for his girlfriend's pregnancy, he in essence gives up his rights to influence what happens to that baby. Liberty was then free to make decisions which directly affected her own health and that of her baby. Do you feel she made the right decision for her? In her shoes, what would you have done?

4. Every year, Liberty makes a gift for her daughter around her birthday, even though "Daisy" is over almost a teenager now. If you've been parted from a child, have you done the same? In her position would you somehow commemorate your child's birthday? If so, how?

5. During the scene where Liberty builds a fairy house while using the workshop on the property where she's staying, she complains that God doesn't seem to care for her or offer a parenting type of kindness to her. But at the same time, a gentle breeze blows through the windows, which display a glorious view that inspires Liberty. Do you think Liberty's resentment toward God keeps her from seeing what God may be doing to bring mercy and gentleness to her life, like a loving parent would do? Have you ever known

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someone (or experienced this yourself) who may be missing God's kindnesses, even though His goodness is present? What would you tell him or her?

6. Clay has a strained relationship with his father. Why? Do you think Clay bears some of the responsibility? At times, Clay acts to protect himself from his father by distancing himself. Have you ever done this with someone in your life? How is that relationship today?

7. Several fathers are depicted in this novel. Please name a few and share how the dynamic they expressed either was familiar or not to you. Liberty's benefactors are like surrogate parents to her. Does Roy's protectiveness and gentleness toward Liberty remind you of God's fathering of His people? Name a list of attributes you believe make a good father.

8. Liberty's sense of self-worth is negatively affected by her mistakes. Do you feel our mistakes should influence how we estimate our value? Liberty has difficulty accepting kindness from others, and she isn't very merciful to herself. Have you ever known someone like this? What is the best way to overcome treating ourselves harshly?

9. What was your favorite scene in the story? Did you connect emotionally with that particular scene. If so how, and why?

10. Which character would you say you're most like, and why? Were there traits you admired about that character? Traits you didn't like as much? If you could change one trait, either in yourself or in one of the characters, what would it be?