

Book Club Discussion Questions

The Midwife's Choice

AT HOME IN TRINITY Book 2

by Delia Parr

1. Domestic abuse is at the forefront of today's headlines. In Trinity, Martha helps a young woman to escape an abusive husband, but she needs the help of many others in Trinity to help her. What are our individual responsibilities to those who are trapped in abusive relationships? What are our responsibilities as members of a faith community?
2. The relationship between mothers and daughters is precious, but it can often be tempestuous, especially during the teenage years, and Martha experiences the full range of those emotions with her daughter, Victoria. What was your relationship like with your mother when you were a teenager? How did that change or remain the same when you reached adulthood, then middle age? What is it like now?
3. When Thomas shows Martha the cabin by Candle Lake that he has restored, hoping it will be a home they will share as husband and wife, she remembers that it was always her grandfather's dream to live in a cabin just like this one—but he never got the chance. During your lifetime, have you achieved something that was a dream of one of your parents or grandparents? Were your dreams the same or were they different from theirs? How?
4. By the end of the book, Martha has tentatively agreed to marry Thomas, assuming they can work through some of the concerns she has about becoming Mrs. Thomas Dillon. What do you think those concerns are? What advantages would Martha have as a married woman that she doesn't have now? Would those concerns or advantages be just as true today as they were in the nineteenth century?
5. Despite their many differences, women share a common culture with one another. In Trinity, the bonds of sisterhood are apparent in the relationship that Martha has with the other women in Trinity, especially with Fern and Ivy Lynn. How does her role as the town midwife give her more influence over the other women, or does it? Who are the women in your life who influence you? Why?
6. How has Martha's life changed now that she is living in the confectionary with Fern and Ivy, instead of living with her brother and his wife at the tavern? How does where we live or with whom we live impact the way we live? Why?
7. There are lots of secrets in Trinity. As a midwife, Martha is privy to most of them, and the Lynn sisters are keeping a very big secret. Do you think most people have a secret or two they are hiding from everyone? Has anyone trusted you with a secret? Were you able to keep it or did you share what you knew with someone else? Do you think secrets eventually end up being revealed? Why or why not?