

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does Caroline worry about most after Harry's death? What is her greatest concern? What does she yearn for most early in the novel?

2. Caroline and Harry were going through a difficult time in the months before his death. Harry was distant, worried, and caught up in his financial problems. Caroline avoided confronting him and later regrets this. How does this complicate her grieving for him?

3. Caroline goes through many changes in Maine. She learns to manage on her own, to renovate Aunt Lila's house, and, most important, she decides to have a child. How does living in Maine, the place itself, contribute to the person she becomes? Would she have evolved the same way if she'd stayed behind in Chevy Chase?

4. Will Harmon's marriage begins to suffer when his wife moves to New York and she commutes home on weekends. Would their marriage have remained strong without their long-distance relationship? How important is it for the spouses in a marriage to spend time together? Is there no truth to the old adage that absence makes the heart grow fonder?