



## The Dress Shop on King Street Discussion Guide

- 1) What experiences do Harper and Millie have at the dress shop on King Street? How does the store itself change through the course of the story? What might these changes represent?
  
- 2) Both heroines believe life has disqualified them from following their dreams. What has happened to make them feel this way? Can you relate?
  
- 3) Millie's racial identity has a profound influence on the choices she makes, as does the trauma of what happened to her father. Do you fault Millie for these choices? Why or why not?
  
- 4) Though the novel is primarily about Harper and Millie, their love stories with Peter and Franklin play a key role in shaping their dreams. What was your favorite romantic moment, and which hero did you find more swoon-worthy?
  
- 5) My one-word theme for the book is resurrection. How do you see this theme play out in the story? Can you think of any specific moments? Also, how do you see this theme playing out in your own life—or how do you want it to?
  
- 6) Water plays a key role throughout the story, as both sustaining and destructive. Can you think of any examples? How do those moments change us within our own lives?
  
- 7) Where would you rather visit—Millie's boardinghouse in Fairhope, or one of Peter's rentals in Charleston?

8) Millie carries two heirloom buttons throughout the book that help unravel long-held family secrets. What is significant about these buttons as a symbol, both for the characters and for your own life?

9) Do you think Harper and Millie are ultimately successful or unsuccessful? Why or why not?

10) Sparks are flying between Lucy and Declan for all the wrong reasons. What do you think may be coming for their story—as well as Eliza's—in the next Heirloom Secrets novel?