

***Though Waters Roar* Discussion Questions**

Throughout the novel, Harriet is trying to answer the question, "How did I end up here in jail?" What insights does she gain from recalling Great-Grandma Hannah's story? Grandma Bebe's story? Her mother Lucy's story? How does she ultimately answer the question?

What strengths did each of the four women—Hannah, Bebe, Lucy, and Harriet—possess? What were each woman's weaknesses?

Which woman did you identify with the most? Why?

Hannah tells Bebe, "'Smooth seas don't produce skillful sailors.' ... God uses the turbulent times in our lives to prepare us for His purposes—if we'll let Him." What were some of the rough waters in each woman's life that led them closer to God?

After the episode with the bounty hunters, Hannah tells Bebe, "Someday ... God is going to give you a task to do in your own time and place. Then you'll have to put your faith in Him as you follow your conscience." What tasks did each woman feel God was giving her to do? How did the circumstances in her life lead her to this task?

Near the end of the book, Grandma Bebe tells Harriet, "Our short time here on earth isn't about what we accomplish, but about what sort of people we become." What are your thoughts regarding her comments? What other insights did Bebe share with Harriet regarding each Christian's task?

Grandma Bebe is born on the same day, month, and year that the first Women's Rights Convention was held. The story ends with the news that the suffrage amendment has passed. How did each woman's "cause" contribute to its passage: Hannah and the Anti-Slavery Society? Bebe and the Women's Christian Temperance Union? Lucy and her women's club? Harriet's job and the need for workers during World War I?

What was your reaction when Harriet's father "fired" her from her job in the department store? How would you have reacted in that situation? As a young woman living in 1919, what recourse did she have to fight his decision? What other instances of discrimination against women did you see in the story?

What was the prevailing attitude toward women and their roles in each generation throughout the book? Did you see a change in any of these attitudes? If so, what caused it?

What qualities did each woman see in the man she married: Hannah and Henry? Bebe and Horatio? Lucy and John? What qualities do you think Harriet and Tommy are beginning to see in each other? Do you think Bebe should have married Neal MacLeod? Should Lucy have married Daniel Carver? Why or why not?

What do you think the next chapter in Harriet's life will be?