



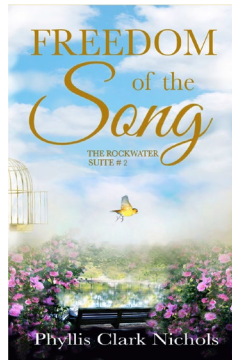
**Greetings from Phyllis**  
Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR  
**FREEDOM OF THE SONG**

By Phyllis Clark Nichols



- This story is about relationships and how they can transform one's life and change the trajectory of life paths. Discuss the major characters and the changes that relationships made in their lives.
- Secrets are often tremendous burdens. How did Gretchen's burden affect her life and the lives of those close to her?
- Discuss Bella's limitations and her rare gifts. What of those were most interesting to you?
- In Chapter 12, Ned and Fred have a conversation about roses and dandelions. What did they conclude when Caroline pricked her finger as she cut the pristine rose? What does that say about life?
- How was Karina's present lifestyle affected by Gretchen's past?
- Freedom is a major theme. It's not just Bella who needs freedom for her metaphorical song. Discuss Caroline's, Gretchen's, and Karina's need for freedom. What bound them, and what would it take to free them?
- What is the significance of Gretchen's hand-mirror? To her past? To her future?
- Roderick, even though a steely business mogul, is quite the romantic. What of his romantic gestures appealed to you most?
- Discuss the significance of the Christmas gifts at the end of the book.