



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

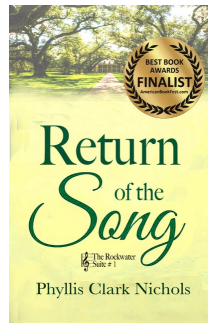
www.PhyllisClarkNichols.com

© Phyllis Clark Nichols All Rights Reserved

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR

RETURN OF THE SONG

By Phyllis Clark Nichols



- For six years, Caroline has lived in Moss Point, hiding her deep grief and fears behind her forced smiles and her southern manners. Discuss the differences in how she perceives herself, how Sam and Angel see her, and how she is seen in the community.
- What does Caroline's wardrobe and clothing choices say about her?
- Music and song are metaphors. Caroline was still making music, but she had lost the *real* music. What is the *real* music?
- Caroline describes her life as the needle being stuck in the scratched groove of a long-play album. How does this play out in her life? Have you ever felt that way, just stuck? If so, how did you move the needle?
- What is the significance of Caroline's search for the piano of her childhood?
- Gardens, garden paths, and night skies are key elements in the story. What do they provide? What do they communicate about the characters?
- Caroline's compositions, "David's Song" and the "Rockwater Suite" are noteworthy symbols. What do they symbolize?



Greetings from Phyllis

Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

www.PhyllisClarkNichols.com

© Phyllis Clark Nichols All Rights Reserved

- Discuss the conversation Caroline has with Angel as Angel lies in the hospital after her heart attack. What does *dance* symbolize?
- Talk about the significance of Caroline's broken porcelain teapot.
- Blue Hole is a special place at Rockwater. What makes it noteworthy?
- Roderick Adair is a successful, often ruthless businessman, yet he relates to Caroline with great caution. Is he daring or is he cautious? Why do you think so?
- So, is the end of something for Caroline, or is it a new beginning?