



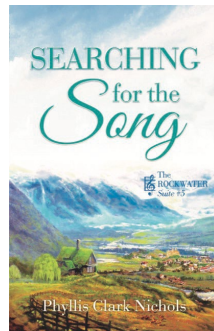
Greetings from Phyllis
Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

www.PhyllisClarkNichols.com

© Phyllis Clark Nichols All Rights Reserved

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR
SEARCHING FOR THE SONG

By Phyllis Clark Nichols



- Rosita has been adopted and has left her homeland for a life with new parents, a new home, and a new culture. Contrast that with Gretchen's experience in leaving her homeland.
- Discuss the value of the way Sister Gabby chose to say goodbye to Rosita in the Prayer Garden scene.
- What impact did Ernesto's death and Gretchen's last visit with him have on Gretchen's future?
- Discuss how the one tragic event in Gretchen's past affected family history for three generations.
- Gretchen has a yearning for home. Famous American novelist, Thomas Wolfe, says, "You can't go home again." For Gretchen, is this true? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite place to visit vicariously in Austria?
- What was the significance and symbolism of the willow tree?
- Discuss reasons why the author may have included the information about the burial customs of the Hapsburg Dynasty. What relationship did it have to Gretchen's story?



Greetings from Phyllis

Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

www.PhyllisClarkNichols.com

© Phyllis Clark Nichols All Rights Reserved

- In Melk, Gretchen takes two solitary walks. The first is upon arrival, she walks alone to the cottage where she grew up. The second solo walk was down the side street where she had been assaulted. Compare and contrast these two walks and her emotions.
- Only at the end of the book is there a link to the Prelude. What was the significance of the family jewelry and the fact that Elfi kept them through the years?
- What would you consider the most poignant, soul-stirring scene in this book?