



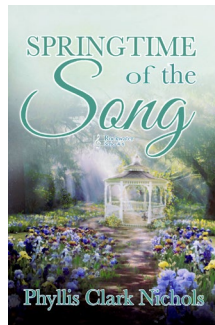
Greetings from Phyllis
Let's swap stories over a cup of tea.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR
SPRINGTIME OF THE SONG

By Phyllis Clark Nichols



- What is it about Roderick that causes him to keep Caroline in the dark about his plans and decisions? What of his past influences his behavior? What of his feelings for Caroline influence his thoughts?
- What is the significance of the barn owl? Contrast Caroline's and Lilah's thoughts and beliefs.
- Just when things seem to be moving in a positive direction for Gretchen, her fears return. What triggered her fears? How rational were her fears?
- Where were Peter and Gretchen when he proposed? What is the significance?
- Iris is a tragic figure. Discuss how her choices and behavior affected her mental well-being. Are there times when walking away from a person like Iris is the appropriate thing to do? Or should you stay to reconcile and help redeem that person?
- Discuss Gretchen's and Peter's wedding scene at Rockwater. Why would Phyllis choose to write this chapter using thoughts of all the major characters?
- In Chapter Twelve, Angel and Caroline have a serious conversation about seasons and settling. Discuss the relevance of this conversation.



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- Discuss the roles and character traits of Ned and Fred and their relevance to the story and relationships to other characters. Is there a Ned or Fred in your life?
- Gretchen and Peter learn of Nicolai's death. In what way did that provide redemption and reconciliation?
- What, for you, was the most poignant, heart-stirring scene in this book?