

discussion questions

The Bridge Between

- ❖ David and Louisa seem to have had an instant connection. Do you believe in love at first sight? Do you think it can last a lifetime? Why or why not?
- ❖ Lou felt trapped by her small town and her family history. In what ways do you think families can trap or free us? How have you seen this play out for the better or worse?
- ❖ Who do you identify more with Lou or Grace? Why?
- ❖ Grace seems confident in Patrick's devotion to her. Have you ever encountered one of your spouse's former loves? What were the circumstances? How did you feel? How did he feel?
- ❖ On page twenty-two, Lou and Grace share one of Patrick's mother's saying. "You can build all the castles in the sky you want, young man, but the real stronghold will always be right here." How do you feel about that? How does your faith impact your dreams?
- ❖ Grace struggles with her reaction to her mother's mental illness. Have you ever experienced something similar? What were your emotions-- guilt? Hope? Love? Relief? Helplessness?
- ❖ David mentions that their family does not discuss grief? How do you and your family deal with loss and disappointment? What do you think happens when grief is left buried? How does it affect these characters?
- ❖ Lou likes to be in control. How about you? How does that work with faith?
- ❖ Lou wears her pearls as an accessory of tradition and strength. Do you have an accessory that gives you confidence?
- ❖ Lou's lack of forgiveness wraps her in a bitterness which makes it difficult to find her place, stuck in her pride. Have you ever withheld forgiveness or had someone refuse to show you grace?
- ❖ The bitterness between Grace and Charlotte is rooted in their love of Patrick. What role do you think he played in creating this tense relationship? Tennessee wants to bridge the divide, but does not understand all the history. How are our current relationships influenced by shared and unshared stories of the past? Do you think Grace and Charlotte will maintain this fragile friendship?
- ❖ The story has several distinct settings: the farm, the family beach cottage, David's townhome, and Charlotte's Charleston mansion. What emotions do these different places evoke for the characters and for you?
- ❖ How do you think all of their lives would have been different if Patrick had lived?
- ❖ What do you think of Liam? Do you think Grace and he will make it?
- ❖ In what ways do you think Lou and David's love for their children helped or hurt their reconciliation?