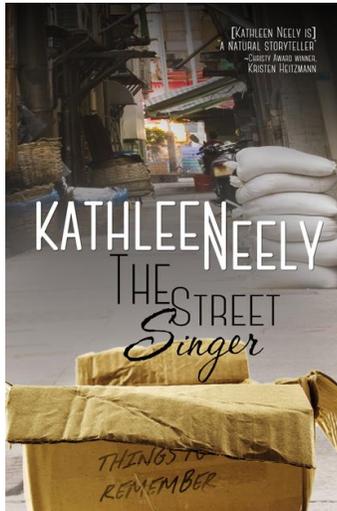


Discussion Questions



Also Available in Paperback:

THE STREET SINGER

Author: Kathleen Neely

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About the Book

Trisha Mills, a student in her final semester of law school, has fond memories of listening to the music of Adaline, a once-famous recording artist. Trisha learns that Adda is now a street singer in Asheville, NC, where she lives in a storage closet she rents for her equipment. Adda's sole means of support in her senior years comes from the donation box.

Along with her meager possessions, Adda has a box labeled, "Things to Remember." Once Adda and Trisha become friends, Adda agrees to show Trisha the contents of the box, and reveals her journey from her beginnings as a sharecropper's daughter, her rise to fame, and her fall into poverty.

Even while busy cleaning out the home of her deceased grandfather, preparing to sit for the bar exam, and planning her wedding, Trisha cannot overlook the injustices that Adda has experienced. Aided by attorney Rusty Bergstrom, Trisha convinces Adda to seek restitution.

TITLE: The Street Singer

Discussion:

Question 1: Trisha and Grant were not compatible. What were the factors that attracted Trisha to him?

Answer 1: Trisha longed for a place to belong. She had no family and saw a chance to be part of Grant's. He had been charming before ambition took over.

Question 2: Trisha grew up in the farm house, seeing it as old and run-down. What caused her to view it differently?

Answer 2: When the clutter was removed, features of the house began to stand out. When she began to make changes and allow light in the dark spaces, she began to feel a sense of ownership.

Question 3: What compelled Trisha to continue making trips downtown to see Adda?

Answer 3: Adda's music reminded her of her grandfather. She wanted a connection to her heritage. The mystery of Adda's life intrigued her.

Question 4: Adda kept mementos of her life in a box. Which ones were painful and why would she keep them?

Answer 4: Each item worked together to tell the story of her life. She couldn't have the good without having the pain.

Question 5: Adda's soulful music came during a sad time in Trisha's life. How did that make them closer today?

Answer 5: When Trisha learned Adda's story, she understood the mournful tone of her music. The sadness they shared included grieving for their mothers.

Question 6: Rusty and Grant were very different. What initial traits caused Trisha to begin comparing?

Answer 6: Rusty had a sense of humor. He was successful without being ambitious. He showed compassion for Adda.

Question 7: Rusty asked Trisha her reasons for marrying Grant. Why did she refuse to admit what had become clear?

Answer 7: Trisha had a fierce sense of loyalty and a fear of failure. Breaking her engagement would have meant compromising both of those traits.

Question 8: Why was Grant so opposed to Trisha's friendship with Adda? Why was he opposed to having her sing at the wedding?

Answer 8: Appearances were very important to the Ramsey family. Grant wanted to expunge all connections with her blue-collar upbringing. Adda didn't match his social status.

Question 9: Rusty said you can learn a lot about a person by listening. Compare how Rusty described Trisha with Grant's answer when she asked him.

Answer 9 Rusty described character traits while Grant described her physical attributes. Grant's description was superficial while Rusty's identified intrinsic qualities.

Question 10: Rusty jumped to conclusions when he saw Trisha with Grant after their breakup. What resulted from the lack of communication?

Answer 10: Rusty hurt himself, Trisha, and Adda. It resulted in a breakdown of trust, and slowed the progression of the lawsuit.

