

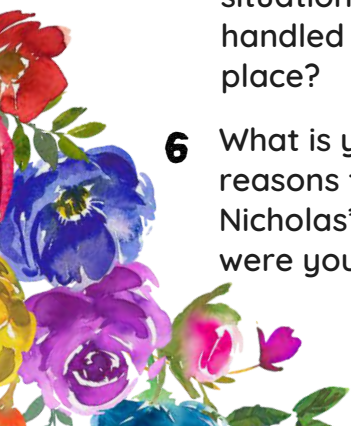
Book Club Kit



Discussion Questions



- 1** The town of Edin plays an important role in the Gardin family's history. What connection do you have to your hometown or a place that is important in your family's history? How has that connection influenced your life?
- 2** The Gardins of Edin raises the question of what it means to belong in a family, as well as what rights, privileges, and responsibilities a person has when they are part of one. How do you feel about these concepts?
- 3** Discuss the lessons The Gardins of Edin offers about navigating family conflict. What do you think of Naomi's hands-off approach to dealing with conflict in the family? Was it fair for her to change her approach after Beau died? What would you have done differently, if anything, if you were Naomi?
- 4** How do the characters' personalities and behavior line up with any previous knowledge you have of the women from the Bible who loosely inspire them?
- 5** What do you think of Martha's interaction with the emergency responders at the Christmas party? Have you ever been in a similar situation? How would you have handled it if you were in Martha's place?
- 6** What is your opinion of Ruth's reasons for objecting to Naomi and Nicholas's relationship? Whose side were you on—Ruth's or Naomi's?
- 7** How did Ruth's experience growing up with her mother influence the relationship she built with Naomi? Discuss how Ruth's approach to setting boundaries with her mother and holding her accountable differed from the way she did so with Naomi.
- 8** What are your thoughts on how Ruth and Nicholas's relationship evolved over the course of the story?
- 9** Mary saw red flags about Tynan when she first met him. What traits do you notice about Mary that may have led her to brush away her concerns and tolerate Tynan's behavior throughout their relationship?
- 10** What does Mary's final interaction with Tynan show about her growth and what she learned about herself in Edin?
- 11** How did The Gardins of Edin influence your perception of heart health? Why might the author have chosen to feature the most common type of heart disease and a less common one in the same book?
- 12** The connection between physical health and mental health is prominent in this book. Discuss how this played out with Mary and what impact it had on her and the family.
- 13** How did The Gardins of Edin influence your perception of mental health?



Are you curious about where the Gardin family lives? In the fictional town of Edin, Georgia it's not unusual for family members to live in close proximity. Sometimes, multiple family members live on the same street. Sometimes, houses are passed down through generations. The Gardin family lives on an estate.

Do you live close to your family members? Would you like to do so? Did you grow up living close to your family members? If not, would you have liked that?



Do you listen to music playlists? If so, take a listen to the [playlist inspired by *The Gardens of Edin*](#).



Playlist

The Gardens of Edin, a novel

A playlist inspired by the heartwarming story of a Southern family and all its many complexities

Rosey Lee • 21 songs, 1 hr 12 min

Visit Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park with Naomi and Nicholas

An important scene in *The Gardens of Edin* takes place in Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. The park is located in Macon, Georgia, about 30 minutes from the fictional town of Edin, Georgia.

The park contains some of the most significant Native American mounds in North America, including the only spiral staircase mound known to exist on the continent. The mounds are marvels of highly skilled engineering. The layers of earth and plant matter were used as religious structures and burial mounds, and the land was the ancestral homeland of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, who were forcibly removed from the land in the 1800s and marched about a thousand miles from Georgia to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears.



Photo: A view of Great Temple & Lesser Temple Mounds from the Funeral Mound. Credit: National Park Service

Sources:

National Park Service. Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Archives. History and Culture. Website last updated August 1, 2023.

National Park Service. Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Archives. Photo Gallery. Scenic Photos. Website last updated August 1, 2023.