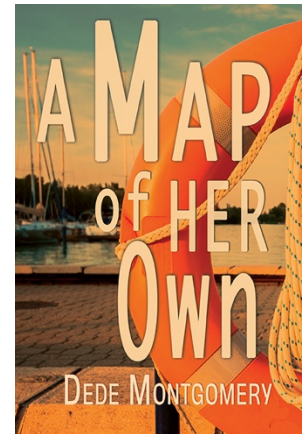


A Map of Her Own by Dede Montgomery

Reader Discussion Questions



1. **Purpose and Relevance**

Both Celia and Emma question their own sense of relevance and purpose. Do you think this is a universal experience for women? How did living a century apart shape their understanding of themselves and the society around them?

2. **Sense of Place**

The Columbia River, along with the landscapes of Astoria and Camas, figures prominently throughout the book. In what ways does this setting give the novel a unique focus or perspective?

3. **Women in Men's Work**

The author chose to portray her two central characters working in traditionally male-dominated industries. Did these portrayals feel authentic to you? Why or why not?

4. **The Character of Paul**

Why do you think the author created the character of Paul? How did you respond to him as a reader?

5. **Dual Timelines**

Did the two timelines feel authentic to their respective periods? Were you drawn more to one plotline or era than the other?

6. **Women's Relationships**

The novel includes several secondary female characters—Emma's and Celia's mothers, Celia's grandmother, and various friends and mentors. What insights did you take away about the author's portrayal of motherhood, friendship, and sisterhood?

7. **Work and Unions**

The author intentionally highlighted the themes of work and unions. How did you respond to this part of the story? Did any of the historical or contemporary details surprise you?

8. **Resolution and Reflection**

By the end of the book, did you feel the characters found closure, or do their journeys seem to continue beyond the final pages? What questions or emotions stayed with you after finishing the story?

9. **If You Could Ask the Author...**

If you could ask Dede Montgomery one question—about the setting, the dual-timeline structure, or a particular character—what would it be? What would you most like to learn more about?