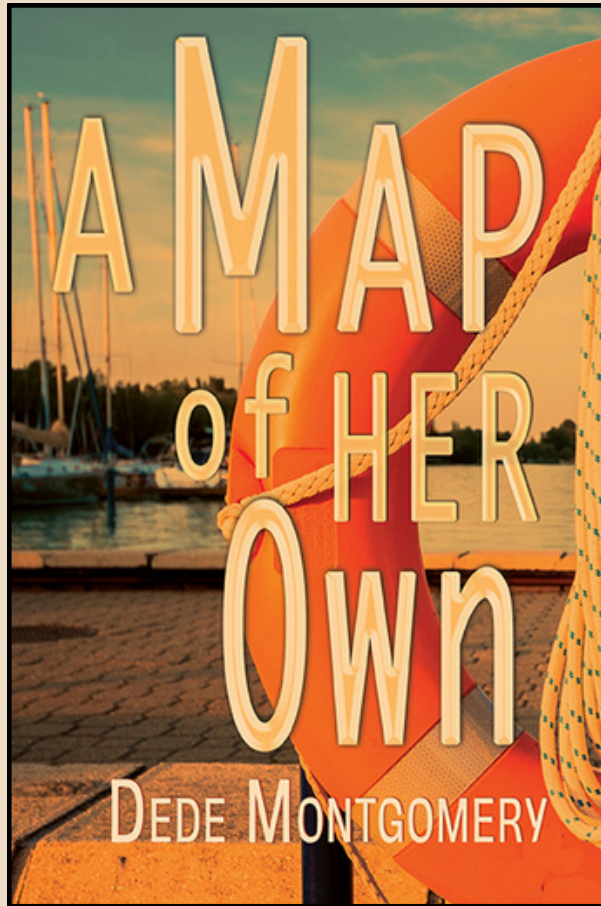


DISCUSSION GUIDE

*A Map of Her Own*



**For Book Clubs & Reading Groups**

by Dede Montgomery

# Welcome

Thank you for reading *A Map of Her Own*.

*A Map of Her Own* is a dual-timeline novel set along the Columbia River, following two working-class women a century apart as they search for autonomy, purpose, and a life of their own.

I hope these questions invite reflection, honest conversation, and connection — to the characters, to one another, and perhaps to your own unfolding map.

## Novel Themes

Identity & Reinvention

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Women & Labor

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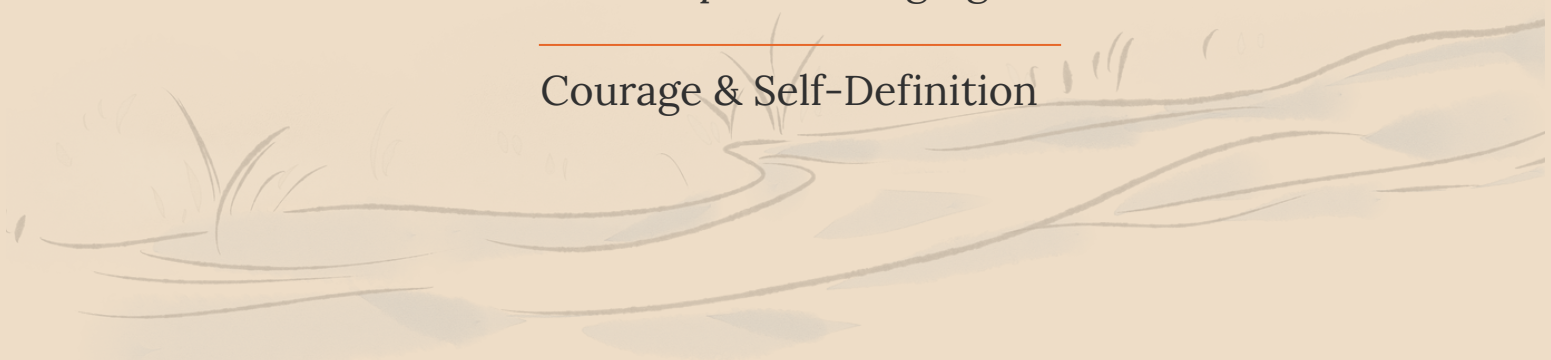
Generational Legacy

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Landscape & Belonging

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Courage & Self-Definition



## Purpose & Identity

Celia and Emma both question their sense of purpose and relevance.  
In what ways did you see yourself reflected in their search for meaning?

## Sense of Place

The Columbia River and the landscapes of Astoria and Camas shape the novel.  
How did the setting influence the emotional tone of the story?

## Women in Traditionally Male Work

Both central characters work in male-dominated industries.  
Did their experiences feel authentic and grounded? What moments stood out to you?

## Women's Relationships

The novel portrays mothers, mentors, and generational influence.  
What insights did you take away about motherhood, friendship, and inherited strength?

## Resolution & Reflection

By the final pages: Did the characters find closure, or does their journey feel ongoing? What lingered with you after finishing the book?

## Dual Timelines

The story unfolds across two eras.  
Were you drawn more strongly to one timeline? Why?



## **Dede Montgomery**

is the author of six books including *A Map of Her Own*, a novel exploring women's lives, labor, and the enduring pull of place along the Columbia River. She writes about identity, work, and generational strength, and enjoys connecting with book groups in conversations about story, resilience, and the landscapes that shape us.

Interested in a book club conversation? I'm happy to join your group (in person or virtual) for a relaxed and meaningful discussion of *A Map of Her Own*.

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