

TIME IN A GARDEN - Book Club Questions

Thrown together in an unlikely Eden, a community garden crew in Northern Michigan, Eve and Adam embark on a heartwarming, poignant journey of personal discovery and healing—an inspiring story of emotional and spiritual growth for gardener so fall ages, mothers and daughters, and anyone struggling to bloom where they are planted.

1. How are the characters Adam and Eve “broken people”? How does their “time in the garden” become both an opportunity for personal healing and growth? and a way of creating community?
2. How do Adam and Eve’s pasts especially contribute to their fear of relationships and their ability to trust? What turning points in the novel begin to change their isolation and respective feelings of personal failure?
3. What role did Eve’s failure to divorce her first husband play in her estrangement from her daughters, Leslie and Gina? How do events in the novel contribute to changing those relationships?
4. How do “generations” play a role in the novel? Including granddaughter Emma? And Jakob and Sarah Groft?
5. Which of the characters in the novel are the most compelling and why?
6. How do the senior citizens in the story model both brokenness and the potential for love and healthy relationships—specifically Eve’s relationship to her boss George? To her friends Bea and Vi? The 90-year-olds Margot and Howard? Artie the Teamster and Vi? The old gardener, Dutch?
7. How do the “garden quotes” and snippets from Eve’s columns and journals contribute to the story? To the readers’ awareness of growth taking place in the garden/ the lives of the gardeners? To Eve as a writer?
8. What events in the story most reveal the unique quality and character of northern Michigan life and rural lifestyles in general?
9. How does the novel’s ending disturb reader expectations? How does it affirm the beauty of life in people’s senior years? Why do you think the author ends the novel the way she does?
10. How can gardening serve as a powerful and meaningful metaphor for our life journey, whether we are gardeners or not.

CRITICAL AND READER PRAISE FOR *Time In A Garden*

BASED on the author’s experience on a garden crew in Bay View, MI. “One of the most thought-provoking, profound yet beautifully, simply written books I have ever read. It is so on target on life that it is scary. I intend to tell my daughter to read it now and then about every 10 years as it will change in meaning for her as she matures and begins to contemplate what is truly important in life.”