

These questions are intended to enhance your book group discussion of *The Westhampton Leisure Hour and Supper Club* by Samantha Bruce-Benjamin.

*\*Please note that some of these questions reveal certain plot points that you may not wish to know before you have finished reading the novel.*

Invite Samantha to join your book club. Email her at

[samantha@samanthabrucebenjamin.com](mailto:samantha@samanthabrucebenjamin.com) to set up a virtual author visit.

[Printable discussion sheet »](#)

- 1 The cover of the *The Westhampton Leisure Hour and Supper Club* invites you, the reader, into the party as one of Serena Lyons' treasured guests. With which one of the guests would you choose to spend the evening, and why?
- 2 Throughout the novel, we learn about the five best moments in the life of Serena and her guests, with the exception of The Host. Discuss your favorite moments in the context of each character's life and the light each sheds on their character. Did any of them surprise you? What do you think the five best moments in the life of The Host might be?
- 3 There are many different characters in *The Westhampton Leisure Hour and Supper Club*, from The Host to Helen Fitzgerald, to May Cook, all of whom contribute to our understanding of Serena. With which character do you most identify? Why? Are any of the decisions they make on Serena's behalf – in terms of not revealing what they know about Kit or Serena's history – justified? Or do you feel that Serena plays an equal role in determining her own destiny through the choices she makes?
- 4 The Host's character is shrouded in ambiguity. Do you sympathize with the dilemmas he faces throughout the novel? Do you consider him to be a hero or a villain?
- 5 There are many recurring symbols in the novel: the lilacs, the stars, the Five Things, The Emperor, the party itself. Discuss how the symbolism enhanced your reading of *The Westhampton Leisure Hour and Supper Club* and which symbol proved most meaningful to you.
- 6 Do you think Serena Lyons' life wasted in terms of the vigil she maintains? Do you empathize with her plight or are you frustrated by her passivity? Is she a victim of circumstance, the choices she makes, the era within which she lives, or is she heroic in the face of unimaginable loss?
- 7 Of the five minutes that elapse, which one is your favorite? Discuss why.
- 8 Discuss The Hamptons of the 1930s. Is it an era within which you would like to have lived? If so, what appeals to you most about living during that time, as opposed to modern-day society?
- 9 When the last and uninvited guest – The Great Hurricane of 1938 – arrives at the party, the respective fate of each character is sealed. Would you have preferred a different outcome or partner for any of the guests? If so, why?
- 10 The conclusion of the novel challenges nearly everything the reader has been led to believe throughout the book. Were you surprised by what was revealed? In re-reading earlier passages, do you see any foreshadowing of what ultimately transpires?
- 11 What have been the five best moments of *your* life?