

## The Page Turner

by Viola Shipman

### Book Club Questions

- Emma Page feels judged for loving and writing romance novels. Have you ever felt embarrassed by the types of books you enjoy? Why do you think certain genres, like romance, are often dismissed?
- Family expectations play a major role in Emma's life. How did her upbringing shape her decisions, and what finally gave her the courage to pursue her path?
- The novel includes a story-within-a-story when Emma finds her grandmother's manuscript. Did this device add emotional depth for you? Why or why not?
- Marcus Flare is portrayed as an elitist gatekeeper of the literary world. What message do you think the author is sending through his character? Have you seen this type of judgment in real life?
- The Lake Michigan cottage becomes a powerful setting. How does the sense of place influence the tone of the story? Can you think of other books where the setting feels like a character?
- The author includes a personal note at the end of the novel. Did it impact how you interpreted the story? Should more authors include these kinds of reflections?
- Judgment is a major theme, especially around appearances and expectations. How does this play out through Emma, her family, and the publishing industry?



- Emma's family runs a small literary press but looks down on her romance writing. What does that irony say about how we define "real" literature?
- The novel balances humor with deeper emotions. Were there any scenes that especially stood out for you, either for their wit or their emotional impact?
- If you could ask Viola Shipman (a.k.a. Wade Rouse) one question about *The Page Turner*, what would it be?

