

THE
BRACELET



DOROTHY LOVE



READING GROUP GUIDE



1. Though Celia enjoys her station in life, she also chafes against the expectations of her family and her circle of friends. Ivy, too, is affected by societal norms. What roles do expectations play for each of the characters in this novel? Have you ever felt constrained or inspired by your family's wishes or the norms of your community?
2. The relationship between Ivy and Celia is a complicated one. Which woman do you think understands the other more completely? Why?
3. Celia's home on Madison Square represents very different things to Celia and Ivy. What do you think the house means to each of them?
4. Ivy believes that the Brownings have provided her with opportunity, but not love. Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Celia decides to pursue the truth about her family's past, even if her discovery proves uncomfortable. How is Celia changed by what she finds out? Have you ever discovered something in your own past that altered your perception of people and events?
6. What is Leo Channing's role in the story? Do you think his

READING GROUP GUIDE

- personal circumstances justified his actions? Why or why not?
7. Were Mr. Browning and Mrs. Maguire justified in keeping the family secrets once Celia was an adult? In similar circumstances, would you want to know the details?
 8. At her father's funeral, Celia wonders how her father dealt with the secrets he kept. Was there a price he paid for his silence? What do you think?
 9. In her diary, Aunt Eugenia states that she has become a secret abolitionist. What were her reasons for this statement? Does the depiction of the antebellum South in this book differ from your assumptions?
 10. In what way is the city of Savannah itself a character in the novel?