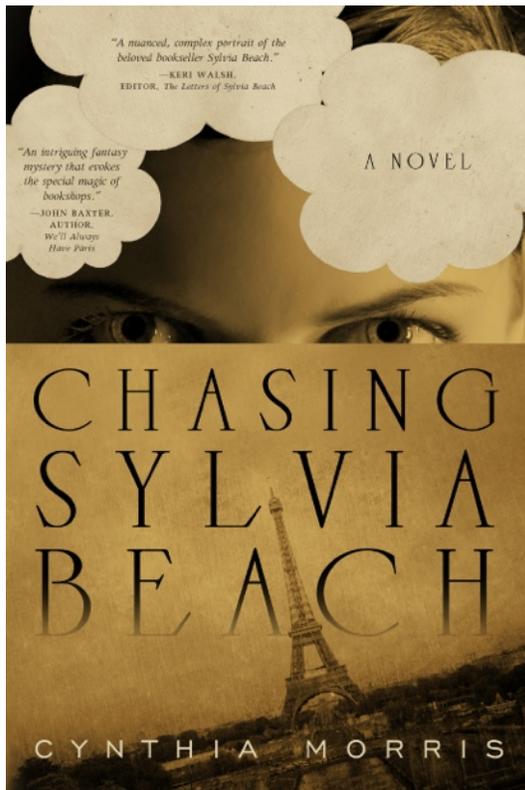


Reading Guide for Chasing Sylvia Beach



This debut novel by Cynthia Morris explores themes of creative expression, independence, and the power of relationships to help us succeed.

Delve into these and other ideas in the novel using these discussion questions as conversation starters.

- 1.If you could travel through time and meet a heroine or hero of your own, where would you go and who would you meet? Why?
- 2.If you were able to travel through time, would you want to try to change the course of history or would you take a non-meddling, observer approach? Explain.
- 3.What choice would you have Lily make about the direction her life will take? What choice would you make yourself in Lily's situation?
4. Paris in 1937 turns out to be a disillusionment for Lily, influencing how she thinks about her own life. What disillusionments have you faced and how have they helped you take a new direction?
5. What roles do books play in the novel? How do the characters' relationships with books impact their choices?
6. What does Lily discover about the real Sylvia Beach and how does this affect her?
7. What talents does Lily bring to the Athenaeum Neuf?
8. If the Athenaeum Neuf were real, what literary work would you be glad the group saved and why?
9. Ernest Hemingway said that Sylvia Beach had "a God-given gift for friendship." How does Cynthia Morris portray Sylvia's friendships?
10. Sylvia gives Lily a gift at the end of the book. What other gift does Lily get from Sylvia?

11. Lily's relationship with her mother is projected onto the women she encounters in the book . . . Sylvia, Louise, Gertrude. How does she realize new ways of understanding her mother?

Suggestions for further reading

Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: Literary Paris in the Twenties and Thirties
by Noel Riley Fitch

The Letters of Sylvia Beach edited by Keri Walsh

The Paris Wife by Paula McLain

Paris Was a Woman by Andrea Weiss

Contact the author, Cynthia Morris, to be part of a discussion with your book group.

www.ChasingSylviaBeach.com

cynthia@originalimpulse.com