

THE COLOR OF HOME

Book Club Questions

1. The Color of Home is about Nick and Sassa's story. Their journey from meeting at Joe's to finding their way to '50 years'. Sassa especially wonders 'can two people stay connected for a lifetime and each know the complete truth about the other?'

Do you believe this is possible? Is it necessary to have a long, happy life with another?

2. Radical honesty/truth is a theme in the book – a place that Nick and Sassa are seeking with themselves and with each other. On page 25 Sassa states 'If two people can manage their fears, they might be able to walk in in truth.'

Do you think this is true? Is fear what keeps us from being honest with ourselves and with others?

3. Nick is hooked on a conversation with his mother when he was a teen. His mom talked to him about knowing that his partner was the right one. She talked about 'feeling of home' and that he should be in touch with himself and ask if that is what he feels, and also check in to see if his partner is there.

Have you ever considered the 'feeling of home' with another person? What did that feel like? Did they feel the same?

4. After a year together, where Nick and Sassa both fall in love, share their lives together Sassa shocks Nick by stating she must leave. She states she does not know if she knows how to sustain love. For her fifty years is about being whole before committing to another. On page 69 Nick asks, "So you want me to let go of the single best relationship I've ever had and trust that we'll get back together someday?" On page 74, they agree to separate and meet each year and ask each other to answer 3 questions: 1. What did you learn this past year? 2. Do you feel whole? 3. Do you know where you belong?

Nick was greatly hurt but loved Sassa enough to see that she needed to do this. Do you think you could leave someone you truly loved and trust that in time you would be together again?

5. In her first year post Nick, Sassa met Brayden and entered into a relationship with him. Their relationship was generative for both of them. They somehow knew that they were not meant to be together romantically forever. When they determined they had run their course romantically they both agreed that they would be in each other's lives as friends for the long run. Do you believe a man and woman can be in a romantic relationship and then transition to a platonic relationship for life where they and their future partners all accept this truth?

6. Along the way, on the 5 years that Nick and Sassa are searching for their truths – they both meet people who have a huge impact on them. These people become part of their tribe of chosen family. Joe, Brayden, Chloe, Jackie, Halfa, Myrina, Mathew have helped them grow and become who they are together. These friends join them in their wedding. Do you have people in your lives that have touched you so that you know they will be there for life? Can you love those the same or different from your birth family members?
7. When Nick meets Rachel something changes for all of them. Nick and Rachel are very different in many ways, yet their music binds them. Rachel helps pull Nick forward, to be more open, more honest with him and her. They fall in love. This relationship shakes Sassa and almost tears Sassa and Nick apart for good. Sassa wants to know that she is Nick's first choice and not his second option. Although it was Sassa that wanted to separate and see what happens, and Sassa who entered into a relationship with Brayden first – she could not see through to Nick and Rachel and accept it for what it was. Do you feel Sassa was justified in going off on Nick when he returned from Montana (Page 259) or do you feel she should have understood? She was being honest in her reaction – does that justify it?
8. It seems for a while that Nick and Sassa just can't manage to find the right timing that works for them to be together. Finally they let down the fear, and find each other again. On page 291, once they finally are back together again Nick says to Sassa, 'I'm sure that every convoluted thing that happened during the past five years moved us toward this place.'

What do you think? Was this about timing? Or is it about work they needed to do separately to come together as whole individuals living and doing life together? Do we need for both to be right in order to work?

9. When Nick and Sassa finally come together for the long run she suggests they need to paint their picture. Nick says that pictures are static, they need something more like a movie. (On page 295) They need 'scenes, guideliens, where everything is said out loud.' On pages 296 - 298 they go on to name the scenes – The Honesty scene, The Wedge scene, The 'I' scene, The Spinning-out Scene, The Work Scene and The Location Scene. What did you think of this overall discussion between them? Does it make sense to try to build these out ahead of commitment? Do these feel like the right ones to work on? Would you add any? Delete any?
- 10.