

## *Parting Gifts* Book Club Questions

Thanks for making *Parting Gifts* a part of your book club.

I got the idea for *Parting Gifts* while delivering Meals on Wheels in Richmond, VA. There were many elderly people that seemed so alone at the end of their lives, and it made me begin to wonder about what their life stories were. There was one woman in particular that always seemed to haunt me. The is not her story, but she seemed like such a sad, kind soul. She would reach for my hand like she wanted to share something with me but never did. The only similarities were that both women suffered from COPD and were hooked to oxygen tanks. Both women were afraid of thunderstorms. And both women had a neighbor that would come and sit with them. Other than that it is all my imagination.

- 1) *Parting Gifts* is broken into four parts, the four decisions that seemed to shape Sarah's life. What decisions in your life changed your path the most?
- 2) Why didn't Andy tell her he knew?
- 3) Why didn't Mary tell her she knew what she had done?
- 4) Why didn't Amanda read letter?
- 5) Why did she have to learn to love her life again before dying?
- 6) How did religion shape Mary and Sarah differently? How did it affect their choices that they made?
- 7) Mary stayed with Dan because she felt she could save him? Do you ever feel that an abusive person can change if the abused partner stays with them.
- 8) Mary doesn't completely admit that Dan raped her even to herself because she was drinking? How much of a problem do you think this is with our youth? What responsibility does both the female and the male have when choosing to drink?