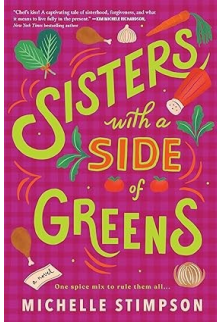




Discussion Guide



About the Book: Sisters with a Side of Greens

Author: Michelle Stimpson

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Websites: <https://michellestimpson.com/>

Facebook: Michelle Stimpson <https://www.facebook.com/michelle.stimpson2>

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. The story begins as Rose prepares to retire from her job with the post office. How did she feel about this job and her retirement? If you have retired, how does your story relate to hers?
3. An injury in her last week affects Rose and brings her ex-husband to her side. How did she respond to this experience? Have you had any injuries that stop you in your tracks?
4. What were the conflicts between Rose and her sister Marvina? How did Rose view it? How did Marvina view the situation?
5. Did you have conflicts between you and your siblings, or among your aunts and uncles? Were these situations resolved? Why or why not?
6. How did the young girl Kesha become apart of their story? What were her issues and how did she impact Rose and Marvina?
7. Rose had a dream as a young woman that she never lived, but now tries to explore in retirement. Did you have any dreams as a young person that you never lived? If so, what was your dream? Would it be possible for you to live it now?
8. Marvina is going through loss of her role at her church. What did you think of this situation? Of the pastor? Of Marvina's response? Have you experienced any thing like this in your own church or religious organization?
9. What as the importance of the secret spice recipe of their mothers? Why did Marvina guard it and why was it so important to Rose? How was this situation resolved?
10. Did this book make you laugh? What were the scenes that were the most funny for you?
11. How was the situation between Rose and Marvina resolved? Did this surprise you? Why or why not.
12. What do the MAMs have to say about the book? Whom do you agree with?

Listen on YouTube:

Sisters with a Side of Greens by Michelle Stimpson BGC Book Club (1:04:45)

Michelle Stimpson Interview—March 19th 2024 (Black Authors Matter TV) (28:04)



NANCY: A funny, bittersweet novel capturing the tensions in family relationships and a dream deferred. It visits the post-retirement world through the lens of two sisters, trying to reacquaint themselves around a family recipe after a \$40 conflict spanning 40 years. I laughed out loud and found myself cheering them on to find resolution and a healing space of home.



ABIGAIL: I found the young woman, Kesha, so intriguing and a breath of fresh air in the midst of the sisters' squabbles. She shows how the younger generation can create a wake up call to the older folks.



SALLIE: This book reminds me of how the same family can look so different from the view of different children. Birth order, parent's attitudes and age all make a difference. Sometimes, it seems like siblings grew up in different families, even with the same parents.



PRISCILLA: I liked Marvin's dedication to her church, bless her soul. That minister wasn't very nice to her. She obviously gave her life to the work of that church. She's my kind of woman.



JANE: Rose impressed me with her determination to start that restaurant she couldn't do years before. Even though she gave up her dream back then, she revived it and pushed ahead to do something in her retirement. And in the end, it took on a different shape, but an entrepreneur at heart! My kind of lady.



MOLLY: I enjoyed reading this story of sistas, the Black experience in the South. We don't read this sort of genre very often. I thought she did a great job capturing the culture of the church and the Black family. And I was cheering for the sisters to reunite and find love again. A feel good story for me, for sure.



KATHARINE: Perhaps a good one for college sociology classes, to explore life for older people, changes in retirement, how young and old can help each other across generations. I found it an enjoyable story and encouraging for all of us retired people. I don't want to start a business, but I certainly want to do some significant things.