

Discussion questions for THE RESURRECTION OF TESS BLESSING

1. The book touches on subjects that many middle-age women face—declining health, loss of those we hold most dear, marital restlessness, and empty-nest syndrome, to name a few. Which topic did you most relate to and why?
2. Who is Grace? Part of Tessie? An angel? Both?
3. Have you or anyone you know experienced an NDE—a near death experience?
4. Tessie’s “lucky black purse” functions as her security blanket, something adults aren’t “supposed” to have. ‘Fess up. Do you have something special that you keep close at hand that helps keep you grounded?
5. When we first meet Tessie, she’s going under for the third time. How did she change throughout the story?
6. Tessie and her younger sister, Birdie, have a complicated relationship. How goes it with you and your sister?
7. If you had the chance to read *The Undertaking of Tess*, the prequel novella about the Finley sisters’ childhood, do you think it enhanced your enjoyment of the novel by understanding Tessie’s and Birdie’s back story in greater depth?
8. Who was your favorite character in the book? Why?
9. Which part of the story made you laugh? Which part made you cry?
10. *To Kill a Mockingbird* powerfully impacted Tessie’s life. Talk about what the story means to you.
11. One in four of us deal with emotional challenges like PTSD, bi-polar disorder, phobias, ocd, eating disorders, and anxiety and depression. These conditions are often worsened by our fear that someone might find out that we’re “not normal.” Be brave...share your personal struggle.
12. One of the most poignant relationships in the book is the one between Tessie and her son, Henry. Her desire to reconnect with him is almost palpable. Do you have anyone in your life you feel that way about?
13. Throughout most of the story, Tessie’s and Will’s relationship is fraying at the seams. Have you had times like this in your marriage? Of course, you have. Let’s talk.
14. Because Tessie has such a hard time relating to people, her golden retriever, Garbo, is her only friend. Do you have a beloved pet that has been there for you when no one else has?
15. If you could design a personal resurrection, what would be on *your* TO-DO List?