

***THAT PINSON GIRL* by Gerry Wilson**

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What expectations does the title, *That Pinson Girl*, bring to the novel?
- 2) How did you feel about Leona's decision not to name the father of her child? What about her other choices throughout the novel—for instance, her convincing Luther to surrender Jesse to the sheriff?
- 3) Secrets have the power to destroy. What is the role of secrets in *That Pinson Girl*?
- 4) *That Pinson Girl* takes place around the time of two devastating world events: World War I and the influenza epidemic. How do these catastrophic events affect and shape the characters?
- 5) Wilson has woven many themes into the novel: treatment of the “other”; race and class division; the weight of motherhood; the destructive power of secrets. In what ways are these themes relevant today?
- 6) The characters in *That Pinson Girl* are “Deep South” characters of a different era. Southern stereotypes abound in fiction. What distinguishes these characters from the stereotypical?
- 7) What are the power dynamics among the characters and how do they affect the characters' interactions?
- 8) Is Raymond Pinson a sympathetic character, or is he all villain?
- 9) There is plenty of guilt to go around in *That Pinson Girl*. How does guilt shape and motivate the characters?
- 10) There is also redemption in the novel. In your opinion, which character is most deserving of redemption?
- 11) What role does the atmospheric setting play in the novel?
- 12) What will you carry away from this novel? What makes it memorable?