

*Caroline Beecham*

# Book Club

FINDING EADIE



# BOOK CLUB

Caroline Beecham

## FINDING EADIE

### *Suggested Questions for your book club*

- Books are of central importance in the novel, to Alice and Theo as well as to both their brothers who were in the forces. How else is the idea of books for escapism and entertainment woven through the story?
- Family disagreements and feuds are all part and parcel of family life but some might consider Ruth's betrayal of Alice is unforgivable. Do you think Alice should forgive her?
- Alice made the decision to combine the search for Eadie with helping with the book until it became too difficult to continue. Was this the right choice?
- All three female characters—Alice, Ursula and Ruth—have secrets and flaws. Who did you identify with the most and why?
- There was little research about life in the 1940s for lesbians and I wanted to know more about the world that Ursula inhabited; which character would you like to discover more about and why?
- Penny shows herself to be a true friend and finds different ways of supporting Alice, from welcoming her into her home, to arranging the book group to help. Friendship and loyalty are a recurring theme but was it right for Alice to go to her friend when Penny has her own family and business to look after, or should Alice have stayed and faced Ruth?
- Theo faces his own tough challenges and moral obligations, one of which is should he stay loyal to his family or his employer, and should he stay faithful to his fiancé or the woman he falls in love with? Do you agree with the decisions he made?
- Alice shows fierce bravery in pursuing her child; physical and emotional obstacles, pain and discomfort, and showing courage in facing the dangerous baby farmers and venturing into unfamiliar places. How far would you go to rescue someone you love?
- *Specific books are important to our characters; Heidi to Alice, The Well of Loneliness to Ursula, The Education of Hyman Kaplan to Theo, others titles for our book group members, and of course the book Theo and Alice are creating; Women and Children First. What book is important to you and why?*

