



## BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sara's rarified upbringing prepared her to become a traditional wife, and yet she craved a very different kind of marriage and life. Do you think she was fully aware of the risks and rewards of the new life she chose with Gerald?
2. In Paris, Sara and Gerald become part of a deeply creative and neurotic bohemian community. How were they like, or different from, their other expatriate friends?
3. Sara was enchanted with the whimsy and creativity of her new world. How would you have liked to live during that period?
4. Whom among their friends would you have enjoyed? Whom would you have avoided? In particular, the Fitzgeralds test Sara's patience and friendship. Would you have stayed friends with them over the years?
5. What do you think are the greatest strengths of the Murphys' marriage? The greatest challenges?
6. The Murphy marriage is complicated by Gerald's gender identity issues. How do you feel about the way Sara handled that problem? What would you have done in her place?
7. Another challenge was Gerald's mood swings, which today would probably be diagnosed as bipolar disorder. How did you feel about Gerald's character: sympathetic or frustrating?
8. One of the things that distinguished the Murphys from their friends was their engagement as parents—unusual for that period, especially for the upper classes. How did you feel about Sara and Gerald as parents?
9. Between the stock market crash and her personal losses, Sara's golden life crumbles within a few years. This causes her to question God and her own spiritual outlook. What would your own response have been? How would it change the way you thought about life?
10. Weighing the extreme fortune and misfortune in Sara's life, and how she dealt with them, do you think she had a good life?