



# Book Club in a Bag Discussion Guide

---

## *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson

1. The story is told from the perspectives of Ann, Miriam, and Heather. At the beginning we find each one at a crossroads of sorts. How does each woman evolve throughout the book?
2. Ann and Miriam Dassin become friends as the two work on the gown together. What do the women have in common, and in what ways are they different from one another? What forms the basis of their friendship; why are they drawn to one another?
3. How were both women scarred by the war, and how does each woman bear her scars? Why is Miriam so reluctant to tell Ann about Ravensbruck?
4. The gown seems to be an extravagance that might be considered excessive in a time of rationing. What was the British public reaction to its luxuriousness?
5. Why do you think Heather was so persistent in finding out more about her grandmother's past? What did she discover about herself as well?
6. Talk about Ann's "bittersweet moment" after she has completed the gown? Do you understand her feelings of nostalgia?
7. Miriam becomes a famous artist, marries Walter, and has a big family. What did you think about how her life turned out?
8. Do you agree with Ann that her only choice for that era was to leave London and move to Canada for a clean break? Why do you think Ann never tried to get in touch with Miriam?
9. Why do you think Ann never talked about her past in London and working on Queen Elizabeth II's gown with her family?
10. Do you think the romance between Heather and Daniel will last?

The above questions were taken from <https://bookclubchat.com/books/book-club-questions-for-the-gown-by-jennifer-robson/> to enhance your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

---

Jennifer Robson lives in Toronto with her family. She studied French literature and Modern History at King's University at Western University. She attended Saint Antony's College at the University of Oxford and earned a doctorate in British economic and social history.

<http://www.jennifer-robson.com/about-jennifer/>

## Book Club in a Bag Terms of Use

---

Simplify your book club selection with Book Club in a Bag! Visit our website at [www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag](http://www.cplma.ca/bookclubinabag) to see a list of available titles, view the availability calendar, and submit a request.

### Booking a Kit

- Booking may be made up to a year in advance.
- Please check the calendar accessible on our website for availability.
- Fill out the form with your information, and a staff member will be in touch to confirm your booking.
- Pick up your hold at the service desk. Your notification may come in a few days early, but it will remain available until your specified pick-up date.

### Terms of Loan

- 12 copies are included in each kit.
- 6-week loan period.
- No renewals.
- Kit may be picked up at or returned to any CLMA library location.
- Kit must be returned at the service desk during operating hours, not through an exterior drop box.
- All items are checked out to one person's card.
- The person who borrowed the kit is responsible for:
  - The distribution and return of all items to their group members; and
  - Any damages to the books/bag, or lost items.
  - The cost of a damaged or lost book varies depending on the item.