

Circle of Friends

A Book Club & Quilting Circle Discussion Guide

by Theresa Allocca • Tower Publishing

Thank you for choosing Circle of Friends for your group. Whether you gather around a quilting frame or a coffee table, I hope these questions spark the kind of conversation the women of Milan would approve of — honest, warm, and unafraid of the hard questions. Pour the coffee, settle in, and enjoy. — Theresa

About the book: In the small town of Milan, Maine, nine women meet to quilt — and, quietly, to set right the things their town can't. Some people call them vigilantes. They call themselves a quilting bee. Circle of Friends is a story about friendship, loyalty, and the fine line between justice and the law.

The Circle & Friendship

1. The women call themselves a quilting bee, but they become far more than that. What do you think each member finds in the circle that she couldn't find anywhere else?
2. Friendships formed later in life can run surprisingly deep. How did the bonds between these women compare to friendships in your own life?
3. Every close group has its own unspoken rules. What were the circle's — and what happened when they were tested?

Justice & Conscience

4. The women decide to do "the things the system can't do." Where is the line, for you, between righting a wrong and taking the law into your own hands?
5. Did you find yourself rooting for the circle even when they stepped outside the law? What does that reaction reveal about how we feel about fairness and justice?
6. Were there moments you felt they went too far — or not far enough? Where would you have stopped?
7. The book asks whether good people can do questionable things for good reasons. Did your sympathies shift as the story unfolded?

Book Discussion Questions Continued

Place & Community

8. Milan, Maine is almost a character in itself. How does small-town life — where everyone knows everyone — make the women's choices harder, or easier?
9. Secrets travel fast in a small town. How does the setting shape what the women can, and can't, get away with?

The Quilt as Metaphor

10. A quilt is many separate pieces made into one whole. How does that mirror the circle of women — or the town itself?
11. "Square by careful square." Where did you see patience, repair, or mending — of fabric or of relationships — in the story?

Looking Outward

12. If your own circle of friends set out to right a wrong in your community, what would it be — and would you join them?
13. What will stay with you longest from Circle of Friends — a character, a moment, or a question?

Bring the Author to Your Group

Theresa Allocca is glad to visit book clubs and quilting guilds - in person or by Zoom – for a warm, lively discussion. Signed copies are available directly from the author. Feel free to contact her at TheresaAlloccaAuthor@gmail.com or www.TheresaAllocca.com