

Four in the Garden

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. The theme of this book is that life's experiences can transform us if we entrust ourselves to God. Give one example from the book that illustrates this theme. What kind of transformation is indicated?
2. This story is told in first person so readers would feel as if they were experiencing it firsthand. In what situations did you relate to Cherished?
3. What scene or section impacted you the most and why?
4. What elements of the Garden of Eden story did you find in this book? In what ways did the stories differ greatly?
5. Although this book is classified as fantasy, the author wrote about spiritual realities he believed to be true. What elements in this story do you believe are true? What elements do you consider fictional?
6. At the beginning of this story, how did Cherished respond to the Teachers? To Creator? What role did each play in Cherished's development?
7. Cherished's misconceptions about Creator were corrected over the course of this story. Identify some of those misconceptions. Which of those are commonly held by most people?
8. Cherished's relationship with Creator deepened over time. List some key events that triggered the larger breakthroughs?
9. Radiance saw herself as unimportant in relation to her service to Creator. In what ways did Radiance change? How did she accomplish those changes? In what situations do you put service ahead of self-nurture? Does self-nurture enhance or hinder spirituality? Explain.
10. Blaze represented those who fail to trust and try to manage life on their own. Did you find it easy or difficult to sympathize with Blaze? In what ways did you identify with Blaze?
11. The guidance to trust is applied to every situation that Cherished encounters. What aspect of life do you find most difficult to entrust to God?
12. Creator's love was a constant in Cherished's life, but that love sometimes expressed itself as discipline or withdrawal. Give an example of loving discipline. Give an example of loving withdrawal. Does your view of God allow for "tough" love? Or do you view discipline as punishment?
13. Cherished was not spared hardship, despite trusting in Creator. Hardship is a given, seen as an essential part of life and necessary for growth. What insights, if any, did this story give you to help you navigate your own challenges?
14. Cherished's relationship with Creator was damaged multiple times because Cherished's attitudes often got in the way. How was the relationship healed in those situations? What was Creator's highest priority for Cherished? How did Creator's responses align with this priority?
15. How did this story affect your relationship with God or your understanding of God? Which aspect of Creator did you have the hardest time accepting? Why?