

Letters for Scarlet

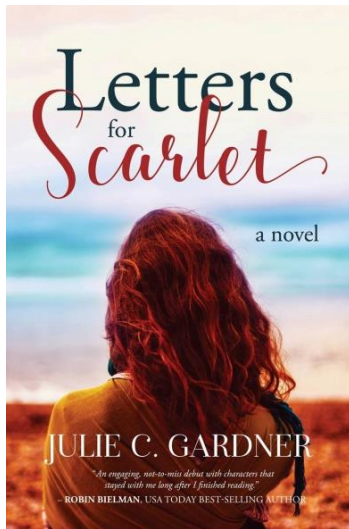
Book Club Discussion Guide

I'm delighted you've chosen *Letters for Scarlet* for your book club read! If you'd like me to join the discussion via Skype, please email me at juliecgardner4@gmail.com. In the meantime, here are some questions for your group to consider:

1. Whom were you able to relate to more: Corie or Scarlet? Both? Neither? Why?
2. Both Corie and Scarlet are greatly influenced by their mothers. Laura Harper appears to have a mostly positive impact on Corie, while Eleanor Hinden's relationship with Scarlet is mostly negative. But can the reverse also be true? Did Scarlet's past with Eleanor have any benefits and in what ways might Laura have hampered Corie?
3. Corie's chapters are written in the 1st person present and Scarlet's are in 3rd person past. Why do you think the author alternated the points of view? How would the book have been different from a single POV?
4. Corie and Tucker love each other, but are struggling in their marriage. Infertility, work, and family all take their tolls. Were you frustrated by the couple's behavior, or did you root for them to work things out?
5. Scarlet's fear of abandonment impels her to betray those closest to her. Did you sympathize with Scarlet's desire to protect herself and her unborn child, or were you angered by her treatment of Gavin and Clara?
6. What did you think of Bets and Joey's relationship? Are the Farinellis ready to embrace a more "traditional" lifestyle, or are they doomed to failure? Why?
7. Which supporting characters did you like? Hate? Like to hate?
8. What did you imagine the tragedy from ten years ago entailed? At what point did you begin to figure things out? Which plot twists you did not see coming or were you always able to guess what would happen?
9. The author leaves the future somewhat open-ended. What do you think will happen between Scarlet and Gavin? Corie and Tucker? What do you hope happens? Do you wish the author had laid their paths out definitively, or do you prefer not knowing?
10. The book is called *Letters FOR Scarlet*, not *Letters TO Scarlet*. Is the distinction important? What role did the letters play for the different characters?

“An engaging, not-to-miss debut.”
– *USA Today* best-selling author **Robin Bielman**

What would you do if you received a letter from your past self?



Twenty-eight-year old Corie Harper embarks on an emotional journey after receiving a graduation letter she forgot she wrote. Although she spent a decade trying to hide her secrets, each page reminds her of the friendship she lost with her best friend, Scarlet, when her now-husband, Tucker, got between them.

Fiery Scarlet, who hasn't seen Corie since, has blazed her own path and left her past far behind. Or so she thinks. Pregnant with a baby she's scared to have, Scarlet must decide if she wants to continue down her lonely path or find the courage to mend her broken friendship.

An uplifting story about the strength of the human spirit and the power of forgiveness.



Julie C. Gardner is a former English teacher and lapsed marathon runner who traded in the classroom for a writing nook. She lives in Southern California with her husband, two children, and three dogs. Her debut novel is *Letters for Scarlet*, and the novella *Guest List* is its prequel.

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