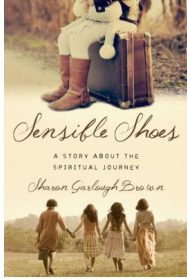


Books by the Stack



Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey by Sharon Garlough Brown

Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.

Why you'll like it: *Christian fiction. Inspiring. Authentic.*

About the Author: Sharon Garlough Brown is a spiritual director and cofounder of Abiding Way Ministries, providing spiritual formation retreats. Her book *Sensible Shoes* was named one of television personality Kathie Lee Gifford's "favorite things." Sharon earned an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Jack, have served congregations in Scotland, Oklahoma, England, and West Michigan.

Questions for Discussion

1. Which of the four women do you most closely resemble? Hannah – so involved with church activities/ministries that you are worn out? Meg – are you carrying around grief from something that was lost to you? Mara – are there situations from your past that continue to affect your present life in a negative way? Charissa – are you consumed with perfectionism and knowing the “right” answers?
2. Are there characteristics/emotions of the characters that you find familiar? Do you have some of the same characteristics/emotions? What are those characteristics?
3. What is your reaction to Steve requiring Hannah to take a nine month sabbatical?
4. In your opinion, what does each woman need to find as they begin their spiritual retreat at New Hope Retreat Center? Have you ever attended a similar retreat?
5. Do you feel one character was stronger than the other in this novel? Why or why not?
6. Was there anything you felt was unique about this novel? Did it enhance or take away from the story?
7. What is the book’s message?
8. If you could change something about the story, what would it be? Why?
9. What scene was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place?
10. Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?

(Questions provided in part by the Women of God)

