

An Unwilling Accomplice

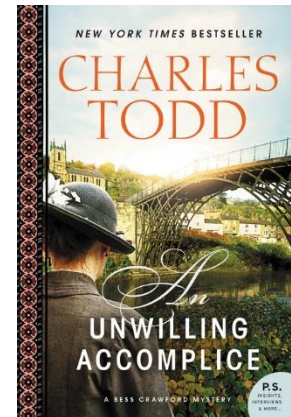
William Morrow

By Charles Todd

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Introduction

From *New York Times* bestselling author Charles Todd comes an absorbing mystery featuring battlefield nurse Bess Crawford, who finds her future in jeopardy when a murder is committed on her watch.



Questions for Discussion

1. When Bess finds herself in trouble with the Army and her own Nursing Service, why does she try to handle the situation herself? Her father is very influential--why not go to him? Do you believe she was right?
2. In Ironbridge, Bess is very much a suspect in the eyes of the local inspector. What equips her to deal with him? Do you think her long experience with dealing with formidable Matrons helps?
3. Simon has been sent by the Crawfords to find their missing daughter. Why is he drawn into her quest to locate Wilkins? Why is Bess willing to accept his help and not her father's? Do they make a good team? Why? Or why not?
4. The Tysoe villages are not welcoming to strangers. Is it their isolation? Their secrets? Or simply their dislike of strangers?
5. How do you feel about Maddie, who doctors these villagers? Why won't he help Bess after she has worked with him?
6. Bess is willing to fight for her good name--but is her return to nursing more important to her? Why?

7. After Bess returns to France, she still insists on finding Wilkins. Why do you think she wants him to stand trial rather than fall into the hands of the Army? Is this a sound reason? Why or why not?
8. How does this search affect the relationship between Bess and Simon? Do you feel it has changed either of them?
9. Bess is shown as an independent "new woman," at the transition from Victorian to modern views of women. How does she find her center as she leaves the past behind but without yet seeing the future? What is her bedrock?
10. How did you feel about the brothers--their fierce differences in character and views of the world? Does the suffering of one brother offer a valid excuse for using other people so selfishly? Was he worth his brother's sacrifice to find him?