

Season of the Dragonflies

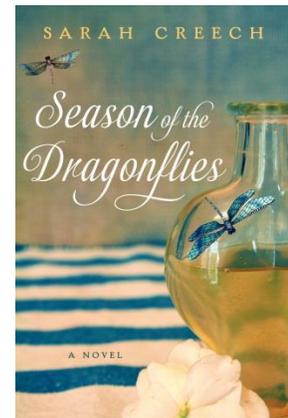
William Morrow

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Introduction

As beguiling as the novels of Alice Hoffman, Adriana Trigiani, Aimee Bender, and Sarah Addison Allen, *Season of the Dragonflies* is a story of flowers, sisters, practical magic, old secrets, and new love, set in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



For generations, the Lenore women have manufactured a perfume unlike any other, and guarded the unique and mysterious ingredients. Their perfumery, hidden in the quiet rolling hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, creates one special elixir that secretly sells for millions of dollars to the world's most powerful—movie stars, politicians, artists, and CEOs. The Lenore's signature perfume is actually the key to their success.

Willow, the coolly elegant Lenore family matriarch, is the brains behind the company. Her gorgeous, golden-haired daughter Mya is its heart. Like her foremothers, she can “read” scents and envision their power. Willow's younger daughter, dark-haired, soulful Lucia, claims no magical touch, nor does she want any part of the family business. She left the mountains years ago to make her own way. But trouble is brewing. Willow is experiencing strange spells of forgetfulness. Mya is plotting a coup. A client is threatening blackmail. And most ominously, the unique flowers used in their perfume are dying.

Whoever can save the company will inherit it. Though Mya is the obvious choice, Lucia has begun showing signs of her own special abilities. And her return to the mountains—heralded by a swarm of blue dragonflies—may be the answer they all need.

Questions for Discussion

1. Did Serena earn the unique gardenia and its potent gifts? Is the flower truly inherited wealth for her descendants or do they too have to find a way to earn its magic?
2. What prompted Serena to curse any variation of her perfume's formula? Do you think her concerns were justified?
3. Serena becomes a mother at a young age and then later a business woman, as does Willow. Lucia and Mya are in their thirties when motherhood and business become

important factors in their lives. How does this prolonged adolescence affect Lucia and Mya?

4. Choices and consequences are major themes in the novel. How many of Mya's choices are prompted by anger or selfishness? Does she deserve the consequences?
5. Zoe Bennett blackmails the Lenore family and is viewed as a villain by Mya and Willow. Did Zoe have a legitimate grievance with the Lenore family? Was Mya right to take action against her?
6. The Lenore family business is essentially a black market operation with little oversight. Do they abuse their wealth and power? Is their scent always a force for good?
7. Discuss Lucia's role within the Lenore family. Why did her gifts remain dormant for so long? What brings them to the fore?
8. "Willow didn't want to lie to her daughter, but Lucia had work to do, and getting her feelings involved would only hamper her. This above all else, was the most important business skill to master." Do you agree? How has this business skill affected Willow's relationship with her daughters over the years?
9. How are the men in the book—Alex, Luke, James, Ben—a part of the flower's complex relationship with the Lenore women? Is the gardenia truly a woman's flower or do the men also play a role?
10. What is the future of the Lenore women and their perfume? Will the company change under Lucia's leadership? What will Mya's role be now that her sense of smell is gone? How will their stewardship of the company differ from their mother's?
11. How does fragrance affect your life? Is there a special perfume or scent that reflects your identity? What fragrances instantly evoke emotion or memories for you?