



RITA WOODS

is a family doctor and the director of a wellness center. When she's not busy working or writing Dr. Woods spends time with her family or at the Homer Glen library where she serves on the Board of Trustees.

Remembrance is her first novel.

1. The novel opens with Gaelle's dream, evoking the tragic memory of the earthquake that destroyed her family. Discuss the memories that are woven into the novel's title, *Remembrance*. How is the act of remembrance passed between Gaelle's ancestors? How has remembrance been communicated from one generation to the next in your family?
2. Courage/survival is a common thread running through all of the characters in *Remembrance*. Are there similarities and/or differences that drive these women? Was there a clear inflection point at which each character made the decision to survive or give up, or was there a more gradual evolution?
3. Both Hercule and Gaelle make the decision to walk away from home and family to become part of something bigger. Would you have been able to make the same choice? If not, how would you work the calculus of freedom vs. family (Hercule) or justice vs. family (Gaelle)? Current events are demanding many of us to rethink previously held beliefs and perceptions. What would you be willing to give up for something you believe in? Are there some things that feel too big to risk? How do you decide?
4. When Abigail is forced to continue her life in bondage in New Orleans, how does her world change (both her inner world and the landscape itself)? How do the techniques of oppression remain the same? How does Louisiana's culture echo Haiti's?
5. Why do you think Margot initially resisted Veronique's suggestion that they try to escape? What do you think was the source of Veronique's willingness to try? Naivete? Bravery? A sense of her own illness?
6. How do you see Josiah's role in *Remembrance*? What is Josiah, exactly?
7. What were your theories about Gaelle's mysterious patient (Winter)? Did you perceive her as wise or dangerous?
8. When Dix asked Louisa to cut him loose in chapter 47, did you trust him? Why would he defy the slaves?
9. How were you affected by the novel's braided timeline? What is the effect of watching the characters' hopes and fears intertwine?
10. At the heart of the novel is the desperate quest for home. What does home mean to the characters? How do languages become a kind of home for them? How do you personally define "home?" What does the community of *Remembrance* impart to its residents?