

Discussion Questions for **THE GARDENER'S WIFE'S MISTRESS**

1. How did Hayden's journey with grief reflect your own experiences? What felt authentic? What differed from your journey?
2. How do you feel about cut flowers? Why?
3. We are all informed by our own perspectives and histories. What assumptions did you bring to this book? Did any assumptions change, or were any assumptions reinforced?
4. Have you ever found a real and powerful friendship with someone you initially disliked or distrusted? How did you make that transition?
5. With what character did you feel the closest connection and why?
6. Ultimately this book is a story about ordinary people banding together to accomplish extraordinary things in their community. Is this a realistic premise? What would you like to accomplish in your own community?
7. What theme of the book resonates most with you?
8. If Shelly had lived, what do you think would have happened between her and Rachel and Hayden? Rachel says she would never have left Hayden. Do you think that's true?
9. How are transgender and unhoused people treated in your community? Do you know any transgender or unhoused people?
10. Does this book have a happy ending?