

the GLOSS
FINDING FLORA
ELINOR FLORENCE

1. Rate the book from 1-5.
2. The novel begins with Flora's dramatic leap from a train. How does this moment capture her courage and desperation, and how does it set the tone for her journey?
3. How does Elinor Florence portray the realities of homesteading life for women in early 20th-century Alberta? Which details of daily survival stood out to you most?
4. The women in the novel come from vastly different backgrounds. What challenges—and strengths—do their differences bring to their relationships?
5. Although the story ends on a hopeful note for Flora, her journey could easily have taken a darker turn. What key moments or crossroads in the novel could have led to very different outcomes for her and the women of Ladyville?
6. What role does friendship play in helping Flora heal from her past and rebuild her life?
7. The title, *Finding Flora*, carries both literal and figurative meaning. In what ways does Flora “find” herself over the course of the story?
8. Flora faces harsh judgment and is called names like “land grabber,” even though Canada itself was still being settled. How does the novel explore the idea of belonging — who has the right to claim land, to call a place home, and to be accepted by a community? Secrets and hidden pasts drive much of the tension in the novel. Which revelation impacted you most, and why?
9. The women “fire the heather” to defend their homes. How does this act of rebellion redefine their sense of identity and power?
10. At the end of the novel, many of the women either move away or marry. How did you interpret this conclusion — do you think it aligns with or challenges the novel's themes of independence and resilience?
11. Personal Connection: Flora's story is one of reinvention and starting over. Have you ever faced a moment where you had to rebuild or redefine yourself? What helped you do it?
12. Personal Connection: The novel celebrates female solidarity in the face of hardship. When have you experienced the power of women supporting women in your own life?