

## Exiled South – Questions for Readers and Book Groups

1. Her last year at college, Lizbeth Gordon is confronted by a college classmate, who claims to be a distant cousin, and a descendant of an enslaved woman owned by the Gordon family. How did this scene affect you? How you might have reacted after a public challenge like this one?
2. Dan's betrayal and death under questionable circumstances push Lizbeth to make rash decisions that affect her life path dramatically. Have you or someone close to you cut ties after a traumatic experience? What were the consequences short and long term?
3. Lizbeth's curiosity about family history becomes an obsession. In your opinion, are there risks researching lost family /family secrets? If so, what are they? Are the risks worth it?
4. In Exiled South the life-long friendship of Lizbeth and Charlotte survives stress and conflict. Do you have experiences that stretched a friendship? Did the friendship survive?
5. Which of the protagonists in Exiled South do you resonate with most? Why? Which do you find hard to relate to? Why?
6. Does your family have letters, a diary, or oral history from or about ancestors during wartime? Are these historical documents/stories a subject of family pride? Or not?
7. When you read or hear accounts about experiences from an earlier era with rules / prejudice about race, spiritual practice, and social class, what is your reaction to mores of another era or culture?
8. If you lost your home, and most of your family during wartime, would you stay put and start over or immigrate when the opportunity was offered?
9. The twenty first century Confederado descendants remember their immigrant ancestors in an annual festival that includes Civil War era music, dancing, Confederate army costumes, and food. Does this celebration of former Confederate heritage surprise you? If so, why?
10. Lizbeth Gordon's hoped for reconciliation with the Boaz family was a disappointment but later resulted in a surprise second chance. What, if any, has been your experience with disappointment and second chances with family/family history?