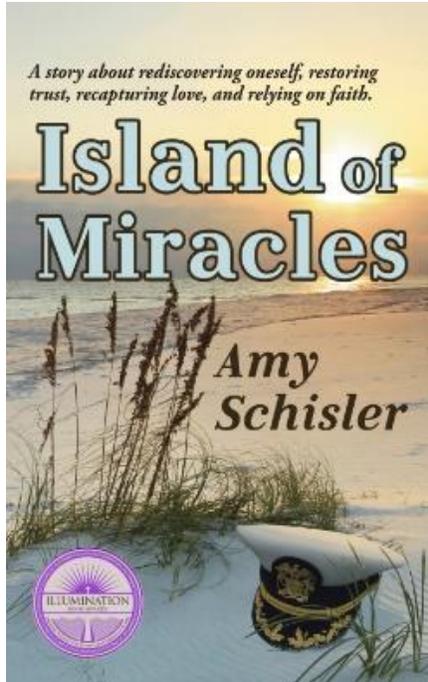


# Island of Miracles Discussion Questions



1. At the outset of the novel, Katherine Middleton seemed to live a charmed life, but her relationship with her parents was strained, her career was at a dead-end, and her marriage was not what it seemed. Are there people you know, who seem to have it all, whose life may not be perfect? Why do you think we are all so quick to judge others based on outward appearances?
2. Kate spent her youth traveling the world; but, as an adult, all she longed for was a place to belong. Do you think that her nomadic youth contributed to her decision to marry Mark and her inability to leave a job in which she was unhappy?
3. Do you think that Katherine's decision to escape to Chincoteague was brave or cowardly? Was she too quick to give up her life and run away, or do you think that events in her life led to her move? Would you consider that fate? Do you believe in fate, destiny, or divine providence; or do you believe that we chart our own paths? Is there such a thing as coincidence, or does everything happen for a reason?
4. Zach and Aaron both kept secrets from the ones they loved. Knowing what those secrets were, would you have done the same? Why or why not? How would you have handled Kate's questions?
5. Kate harbored a secret of her own and spent a great deal of time debating whether to tell Mark the truth. If you had been in Kate's shoes, what would you have done?
6. In Kate's eyes, everyone sees her a failure who can't get her life together. Have you ever felt that way about yourself? About another person? What advice would you give to someone who seems to always make poor decisions?
7. The residents of Chincoteague, for the most part, welcome Kate with open arms. Have you ever lived in or visited a place where the people make you feel like you belong there? Did it make it hard for you to leave?
8. Aaron's love for Kate was simple, pure, and true. He was willing to do anything for her and for her baby and to accept her for all that she was. It seems like that kind of love is hard to find these days. Do you think that people, too often, have lofty expectations of people and aren't able to fully accept people for whom they are? Why do you think that is?
9. Which character spoke to you the most and why?
10. What, if anything, would you change about *Island of Miracles*? What would you tell the author if you could talk to her about her book?