

Elin Hilderbrand

Author of *Here's to Us*

WINTER STORMS

A NOVEL



Discussion Questions for Elin Hilderbrand's WINTER STORMS

- 1.) A variety of beginnings and endings—of relationships, marriages, businesses, and even a prison sentence—play major roles in the novel. In what ways are the Quinn family's emotions at these two different stages of life similar? In what ways are they different?
- 2.) If you were in Ava's shoes, which of her suitors would you choose? Do you agree with her choices? Have you ever been in a similar romantic predicament? How did you resolve the situation?
- 3.) In what ways does Kevin's new business give his life renewed purpose? How are his achievements on his own different from his involvement with the Winter Street Inn?

- 4.) What does Jennifer and Patrick's relationship demonstrate about the possibility of achieving perfection in your own eyes or in the eyes of others?
- 5.) Mitzi, Kelley and the rest of the Quinns spend a great deal of time waiting for news about Bart. Do you think the Quinns effectively balanced living their own lives with a respect for Bart while waiting for news of his fate? Have you ever had a similar experience where you were waiting for news of a loved one? How did you cope during that time?
- 6.) Winter is a nontraditional time to have a wedding. In what ways is a winter wedding particularly suited to Kevin and Isabelle's relationship? Have you or anyone you know attended a winter wedding? Do you prefer a winter wedding or the more traditional summer wedding?
- 7.) In what ways does being stranded with their fellow family members during a snowstorm force the Quinns to deal with family resentments they may otherwise attempt to ignore? Have you ever found yourself "trapped" with family during a crippling snowstorm?
- 8.) Bart is a presence despite his physical absence throughout much of the novel. In what ways does this technique allow you as a reader to mold him in your image? Is there a specific family member or friend in your own life that his character calls to mind?