

*Shadow among Sheaves*  
Discussion Questions from the Author

- 1) You might notice some significant differences between the main characters and their biblical counterparts. On this note, what would you say is Lord Barric's greatest character flaw, and why do you think he was written as a flawed character, as opposed to the more allegorical Boaz?
- 2) Themes of otherness are crucial to the original biblical account, in which Ruth would have been viewed at best as an outsider and at worst as an enemy to the Israelite people. Where do we see these themes transferred to Rena's experiences as an Indian woman?
- 3) In what ways is Parson Richardson an effective pastor?
- 4) For those of you familiar with classic 19<sup>th</sup>-century British fiction, do you see any plot devices, characters, or references that harken back to that genre?
- 5) Talk a bit about the novel's shadow imagery, which is especially crucial given the title. Where do you see "shadows" play out in the text, and why do you think they are so important?
- 6) Nearly every character in this book is grieving for something or someone, and each character handles their grief in a markedly different way. Who are some of these characters? What are they grieving, and how does their grief affect them?
- 7) Moments of healing and themes of redemption—where do we find the best examples of these?
- 8) Main characters tend to draw a lot of attention in discussion and reviews. Who is the strongest or most intriguing secondary character, and why?
- 9) If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?
- 10) If you come up with any fabulous questions in #9, feel free to shoot them my way, and I would be happy to reply for your next meeting. I am also available to chat VIA Facetime and ZOOM on request.