

A NOTE YET UNSUNG

Reading Guide Discussion Questions

Spoiler Alert: Questions contain key plot points to the story.



1. Rebekah is gifted in a way that isn't socially accepted in her day. Yet she still strives to achieve her dream. How do you relate to her stubbornness and tenacity? What decisions, if any, would you have made differently? And before reading this novel, were you aware that women weren't allowed to play the violin in public in that era?
2. Why caused Rebekah's grandmother to accelerate the plan for Rebekah to be sent to study in Vienna? Do you think this decision was justified? Abuse issues (and potential abuse issues) are handled so differently today versus the 19th century (or even thirty years ago). Discuss the differences in how society then and now chooses to handle such occurrences and whether we have progressed in that regard.
3. As mentioned in the author's note, Tate's illness was otosclerosis, yet it went undiagnosed due to the level of medical knowledge at the time. Is there anyone in your life who is deaf? Or who is going deaf? What have you learned from them? What an incredibly frightening prospect for anyone, but especially for a composer. At one point, Tate contemplates how odd it is that finally, once he's learned to use his gift for God, his hearing may be taken away completely. Discuss the spiritual aspects surrounding this possibility and whether you believe God not only allows bad things to happen to those who love him, but that He sometimes specifically brings those challenges into their lives, and why.
4. Adelia Acklen Cheatham, the real woman who built the Belmont Mansion in 1853, is a prominent secondary character throughout the Belmont Mansion novels, and *A Note Yet Unsung* is no exception. Discuss her character arc through this book and—if you've read *A Lasting Impression* and *A Beauty So Rare*—throughout the series. What do you like most about Adelia? What do you like least? How are you able to relate to her?
5. In every one of Tamera's books, there are cameo appearances of a character or characters from other series (like old friends dropping in to say hello). Did you catch the cameo appearance in this novel? Who was it, and what novel was he/she originally in?
6. Based on Rebekah's past experience with musicians, she'd certain Tate is struggling with an addiction. When faced with the possibility of losing her dream, she takes matters into

her own hands, follows him, and confronts him. Review that confrontation (Ch. 19 and 20). What does she accuse him of? If given her same circumstances, how would you have handled the situation? Have you or someone you loved ever struggled with an addiction? Were you aware that the substances mentioned in this novel were used by musicians in the 19th century to enhance creativity?

7. Tate is somewhat embarrassed about his family and about Rebekah meeting them. Could you relate to his feelings? Has there even been a part of your life that you've been uncomfortable to let others see? Please share.
8. Tate struggles throughout the story to finish his symphony. Where is he finally able to complete it? And why do you think that is? What does this say about him? And even about us (if the same sentiment holds true for you that does for Tate)?
9. Darrow Fulton was Rebekah's childhood nemesis, of sorts. Did you have a childhood nemesis? How did that person shape you in younger years? And if you've been so fortunate (or unfortunate, as the case may be) to cross paths with them again, what was your experience? Any lessons learned?
10. Rebekah's relationship with her mother was estranged, at best. And Barton Ledbetter being in the picture only complicated things. What issues do you believe were at heart of the rift between Rebekah and her mother? Can you relate to those issues? If yes, how?
11. Toward the end of the novel, Rebekah and Tate are led down a long tunnel in the opera house. What does she see? And who does the depicted scene remind her of? Were you surprised by how that relationship in her life turned out? Or did you expect it?
12. Do you have a favorite scene in the novel? A favorite character? What is the takeaway message for you from *A Note Yet Unsung*?

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**ADDITIONAL NOTES
TO SHARE WITH BOOK CLUB**