



WHAT

the

WIND

KNOWS

AMY HARMON

New York Times Bestselling Author

WHAT THE WIND KNOWS

Anne Gallagher grew up enchanted by her grandfather's stories of Ireland. Heartbroken at his death, she travels to his childhood home to spread his ashes. There, overcome with memories of the man she adored and consumed by a history she never knew, she is pulled into another time.

The Ireland of 1921, teetering on the edge of war, is a dangerous place in which to awaken. But there Anne finds herself, hurt, disoriented, and under the care of Dr. Thomas Smith, guardian to a young boy who is oddly familiar. Mistaken for the boy's long-missing mother, Anne adopts her identity, convinced the woman's disappearance is connected to her own.

As tensions rise, Thomas joins the struggle for Ireland's independence and Anne is drawn into the conflict beside him. Caught between history and her heart, she must decide whether she's willing to let go of the life she knew for a love she never thought she'd find. But in the end, is the choice actually hers to make?



Publication date: March 1, 2019

Genre: Historical, Romance

Recommended for ages: +16



ATTENTION

**THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES SPECIFICS YOU MIGHT WANT TO AVOID
UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THE BOOK.**

BOOK CLUB KIT – WHAT THE WIND KNOWS

WWW.AUTHORAMYHARMON.COM

CHARACTERS

Do you think the characters were realistically portrayed? Describe these character's personalities.

Were you able to feel or relate to the intensity of love between Thomas and Anne? What about the love between Eoin and Anne?

How does Thomas and Eoin's relationship compare to that of Anne's and Eoin's?

Could you relate to Michael Collins's desire for Irish Independence? Did his passion inspire you?

What character traits stand out to you about Anne? How was she different to the Anne of the past?

Which character do you relate to most?

Which character was perfectly loathsome?

Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?

What is motivating the actions of the characters in the story?

What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters in the story?

Do the main characters change by the end of this novel? Do they grow or mature? What events trigger such changes?

How does the way the characters see themselves, differ from how others see them? How do you see the various characters?

QUOTES

Discuss the following quotes.

“I loved churches the way I loved cemeteries and books. All three were markers of humanity, of time, of life.”

“I had assumed several identities that were not my own, and they had begun to chafe and rub, even when I did my best to wear them well.”

“I can’t imagine all men love their women the way I love Anne. If they did, the streets would be empty, and the fields would grow fallow. Industry would rumble to a halt and markets would tumble as men bowed at the feet of their wives, unable to need or notice anything but her. If all men love their wives the way I love Anner, we would be a useless lot. Or maybe the world would know peace. Maybe the wars would end, and the strife would cease as we centered our lives on loving and being loved.”

“I’m not fit to be around people, yet I don’t want to be alone.”

Were there any particular quotes that stood out to you? Which ones and why?

STRUCTURE, WRITING & GENERAL DISCUSSION

What did you think of the overall structure of the novel?

Were you engaged immediately?

What did you think about the time-line and points of view?

How did you feel reading it?

Which emotions were conveyed in the story?

Did the story keep you interested?

Would you say this is a plot-driven book or does the story unfold slowly with a focus on character development?

Were you surprised by the plot? Or did you find it predictable?

How credible did the author make the setting and dialogue?

What scene did you find was the most pivotal for the book?

How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place?

What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way?

Did certain parts of the novel make you uncomfortable?

Were there any scenes that made you laugh?

What is the significance of the title? Did you recognize it in the book?

Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what is your title?

What surprised you the most about the book?

How important is the setting and time period to the story? How would it have played out differently in a different setting?

What are your thoughts on the Yeats poems at the beginnings of each chapter? Did you have a favorite?

How did the journal entries contribute to the story? Were you able to learn historical facts through them? Did they make you feel more connected to the history?

Based on the prologue, did you expect the ending or were you surprised?

Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?

Has this book changed you, broadened your perspective?

Discussion questions by chapter

Prologue

We meet Anne and her grandfather as he tells her, “The wind and the water know all the earth’s secrets. They’ve seen and heard all that has even been said or done.” How does this set the tone for the story? Are you anxious to find out what secrets the wind has to tell?

Chapter 1

Anne immediately feels connected to her great-great-grandfather through a photograph. Have you ever felt a connection with someone you have never met through an old photograph?

Immediately the story is colored by loss, how does this make you feel? Were you anxious about continuing the novel?

Chapter 2

There is a lot to unpack in the short journal entries by T.S - conflict, death, the uncertainty of war, and missing people. Were you able to put yourself in the author’s shoes? Have you experienced a high tension moment where your future might be impacted by an immediate decision?

Eoin said, “Freedom was the ability to go wherever your heart called...”
Where has your heart called you to go? Have you been there?

Chapter 3

Anne is determined to search her family’s history. Have you ever traced your roots? What did you discover?

Anne says, “I once heard that our view of God has everything to do with those who taught us about Him.”
Do you agree? Does this apply in your life?

Chapter 4

What is going through your mind as Anne gets shot?

Discuss the moment in the lake and Anne’s rescue. Did you have a guess who her rescuer could be? Were you able to put yourself in Anne’s shoes?

Chapter 5

What are your thoughts as Anne meets young Eoin? Can you imagine meeting your grandfather while he was a child?

As Anne realizes she has traveled back in time she begins to realize the implications of her predicament. Discuss the worries you might have if you traveled back in time. Would you be tempted to tell the truth about where you had come from?

Chapter 6

We see an intimacy growing between Thomas and Anne as he washes her hair and cares for her, then frustration as questions about where she has been arise. What are some problems you foresee for Anne and Thomas?

Anne says she doesn't want to pretend to be someone else - the Anne of the past. Do you think it would be easier to pretend to be someone else or to be yourself if you were in her situation?

Chapter 7

Anne says, "I knew the history, but it had never been real."

Do you often feel this way about history? What are some ways history comes to life for you?

This chapter begins to show the cyclical nature of the story. Do you think life naturally gives us second chances to fully appreciate what we have been given, as Anne is getting a second chance with Eoin?

Chapter 8

Brigid and Anne's relationship starts out tense. Why does Brigid have a frosty demeanor? Is it warranted?

Anne is apprehensive about her clothing choices. Discuss the excitement or fears you might have about shopping for clothes in 1920s Ireland.

Chapter 9

On Anne's shopping excursion she experiences acquaintances of the Anne of the past. How does Anne conduct herself? Describe the reactions of the shopkeepers.

Thomas's journal entry shines light on the ever-present tension in Ireland, yet he mentions a sense of hope among the people. Why do you think they feel hopeful?

Chapter 10

We see the lengths women have always gone to for beauty. What do you learn or find interesting about Anne's experience in the store?

How did you feel when Anne said her grandfather was still with her and about the true meaning of that phrase as it occurs to her?

Chapter 11

How does Anne feel when Thomas tells her he didn't intend for her to think he wanted her gone?

Thomas's journal entry contemplates the differences in Anne -- what would be the most difficult changes to reconcile? Can you understand his lack of trust in Anne?

Chapter 12

This is a big chapter! What do you think is going through Thomas's mind as Anne's prediction about the truce comes true?

As Anne and Thomas's relationship progresses, Thomas begs Anne to be there when he gets back from Dublin and Anne seemingly settles into the life she's currently living. What are some factors that make Anne able to relax in this time period?

Chapter 13

What do you think of Anne's ingenuity as she protects the gunrunners? Would you be able to think quickly on the spot as she had?

Chapter 14

Do you have predictions as to why Liam might have shot Anne in the lough?

Anne realizes it's her in the picture with Thomas and Michael Collins, not her great-grandmother. Did you see this moment coming at the beginning of the story? Did this revelation shock you?

How did you feel as Anne confessed her love for Thomas? Are you feeling the connection between the two?

Chapter 15

Suspicion surrounding Anne comes to a head, what are some reasons Michael Collins and the others have to fear her? What did you think of Anne's explanation for knowing about the events in advance?

Finally, Anne shares the truth with Thomas. Naturally, he's confused and unsure of what to believe. Can you imagine possible explanations you might come up with to make sense of someone telling you they were from the future?

Chapter 16

This section opens with, "I read somewhere that a person will never know who they really are unless they prioritize what they love." Do you think this is true?

Anne says, "I was a victim of circumstance -- improbable, impossible, inescapable -- and I could only make the best of it."

Have you felt like this before? Did you make the best of it? Does your attitude make or break the situations you have found yourself in?

Chapter 17

This chapter starts with Anne saying, "Like the sun coming out from behind the clouds, everything changed the moment I was believed." How does trust between people ease burdens?

Thomas mentions, "The sad truth is that when people leave Ireland, they rarely come back." Why do you think this is? Are some places like this today in our world? Why?

Mick's letter says Anne's predictions have helped him, "I have little expectation of a good outcome, and I think because of it, I am seeing things are they are and not as I wish they were." Do you think it is better to be an idealist or realist? A mix of both?

Chapter 18

Mick feels the heartbreak of his work for Ireland going unappreciated by many citizens and even friends. Did he work in vain? Discuss.

There are beautiful and tender moments between both Thomas and Eoin and Brigid and Anne in this chapter - how did those moments make you feel? Has Brigid grown on you as she's grown on Anne?

Chapter 19

We see the two sides of the fight for Ireland through Ben Gallagher and Thomas's perspectives. Do you understand one point of view more than another or are you neutral? Do these disagreements between countrymen feel relatable?

Anne asks Thomas what he will do with his love of Ireland. What can we do with our love of country? What does Thomas conclude about this love? Discuss.

Chapter 20

Anne kindly gifts Maeve a beautiful tea set for Christmas. Discuss this scene.

Were you able to speculate why Brigid ran out of the house when she heard the shot? Did she have foreknowledge of what was coming? Why might they want to kill Anne?

What did you think of Anne and Thomas's wedding?

Chapter 21

Anne wondered, "...if the magic of history would be lost if we could go back and live it. Did we varnish the past and make heroes of average men and imagine beauty and valor where there was only dirge and desperation?"

What do you think about this sentiment?

The treaty is signed and British troops are preparing to leave. How does this make you feel for Mick and Ireland? Were you well versed in this history prior to reading?

Chapter 22

Happiness over the British forces leaving is shortlived as tensions mount between the Irish. They are on the brink of civil war and the British are stoking the fire. Discuss the difficulties Michael Collins faces.

Anne and Michael both know his demise is imminent. Can you imagine the burden? Anne knows the date, but Michael asks her to keep it to herself. Would you have Anne's restraint?

Chapter 23

What are your thoughts as Anne is forced back to her time?

Chapter 24

Anne constantly tries to force the lough to take her back. Why do you think it won't work?

What is going through your mind as Thomas claims his journal from Anne of the future?

Chapter 25

Discuss the magic of the moment between Anne and Maeve. What does Maeve know?
Was your mind bending?

We bear Thomas's despair as he mourns the loss of Anne and now his friend. While the story is fiction, how you feel reading about the real death of Michael Collins? Does this story make it more realistic?

Chapter 26

There is so much longing in this chapter, can you relate to the feeling? Are you feeling it along with the characters? What outcome were you hoping for?

The conclusion is like the grandest fireworks show - what were your thoughts? Were you expecting the outcome portrayed?

Discuss the Author's Note

Q&A with Amy Harmon

Do you have something to motivate you when you write, like chocolate, or a small reward when you get to a small milestone?

The reward for me is the story itself.

What inspires you to write? Do you have a location or something that you eat/drink?

I am rarely “inspired” honestly. I truly have to make myself do it. I want to write and tell stories, but it’s hard work, and it gets harder each time. Lots of pressure. I find that I must grit my teeth and go until the story catches me and momentum takes me forward.

What does the writing process look like?

In the beginning, it’s lots of note-taking, freewriting, stewing, and stirring. Once I figure out who my characters are and have done my research, I start piecing things together. It’s always slow, but I usually pick up speed as I go.

What is your favorite book?

I have a few, but Anne of Green Gables is the story I lived in for much of my childhood, and LM Montgomery made me want to be a writer.

Do you take a break between books or have you jumped into another writing venture?

I have one book written and waiting for release next year (March 2021) and am working on a sequel to The First Girl Child right now.

What piece of advice do you have for the aspiring authors out there?

Finish. Even if it’s ugly. See the story through to the end. Don’t abandon your story.