QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Waiting for the Monsoon by Threes Anna

1. What similarities and differences do you see between Charlotte and Madan? Between Charlotte and Victor?

2. In the opening lines of the novel Charlotte is compared to the electric lawnmower: “She was like the old Lloyds. For years it was the only electric lawnmower for miles around: the fact that it was still functioning was thanks to the brand and not to love.” How does the last statement apply to Charlotte’s life?

3. What does Madan gain from his friendship with Abbas?

4. When Victor announces that he plans to return to England Charlotte thinks, “He’ll make it to London, and without a hitch, too.” How true is Charlotte’s assessment of her father?

5. Describe the relationship between Madan and Mister Patel. Do you think Mister Patel felt obligated to take care of Madan? Why do you think he made the decision to leave Madan with Chandan Chandran?

6. What is Hema’s role in the book? How do other people react to him?
7. Why do you think Charlotte agrees to take Madan in? Do the ladies of the New Rampur Club influence her decision? Do they influence her in other ways?

8. Charlotte’s great-grandmother Elizabeth Elphinstone whispers, “The clock is the future,” as she crosses the Khyber Pass. What does the big grandfather clock symbolize for Charlotte in the past and present?

9. After giving birth, Charlotte tells Sita “From now on, this is your child.” Why do you think Sita agrees to take the baby?

10. Victor says to Charlotte, “A true Bridgwater doesn’t cry. Ever.” What impact does this statement have on Charlotte throughout her life?

11. In what ways does Peter’s war trauma impact his marriage to Charlotte? Why do you think he keeps this trauma from Charlotte? Why can’t he move past it?