



## **COLLATERAL DAMAGE by Alice K. Boatwright**

### **Questions for Discussion**

The three linked novellas in *Collateral Damage* offer book clubs and other groups an excellent platform for discussing both the stories and the issues raised by them. Some suggestions follow.

- 1) Wars have taken place throughout history, affecting both those who fought and those who didn't. Have you or your family been directly affected by war? By the collateral damage of war?
- 2) Did reading this book give you any fresh insights or improve your understanding of the Vietnam War era? In the US? In Vietnam? Can you give an example?
- 3) In each of the novellas, the main characters have to choose whether to continue on a course set in response to their wartime experiences – or not. How would you describe these turning points?
- 4) Toby frames his decision to attempt suicide as a political act of defiance. How did you feel about that?
- 5) What are the biggest obstacles to be overcome in Raz and Jane's marriage? Can you imagine where they might be on Thanksgiving a year later? What about Tom and Charlie?
- 6) Sarah, Henry, and Dr. Tran all have very different perspectives on the Vietnam War (AKA the American War). How would you describe these differences and their influence on their lives and relationships?
- 7) The stories are woven together by linking characters who appear in the background or off stage. Did having a glimpse of "what happened later" strengthen your experience of reading the three novellas?
- 8) Do you have a favorite scene or character that has stayed with you since reading this book?

If your group would like to submit questions to the author or have her participate in your discussion via Skype or Facetime, please visit <http://alicekboatwright.com> for details on how to arrange this.

Thank you for sharing your response to *Collateral Damage* by posting an online review. These reviews help other readers find books they will enjoy.