

THE DRIVEWAY HAS TWO SIDES

BY SARA MARCHANT

QUESTIONS

- The book starts with a scene-setting omniscient narrator and then switches for the rest of the book to close third person narrative. Why do you think the author did this and what impact do you think it has?
- The author withholds information from the reader extensively through the book. Discuss what impact this has. What impact would it have had on the feel of the book if different information was withheld or given instead?
- As a reader, did you empathise with any of the three men in Delilah's life? What techniques does the author use to influence your opinion and how effective are they?
- Did you empathise with Delilah?
- Take a close look at the prose style used by the author. How does it differ from other books or from your own prose style?
- Discuss the balance between narratives driven by plot and narratives driven by characters and their relationships. Compare narratives you have written, or are writing, or planning to write with the narrative balance of this book.
- What did you think of the ending of the book? Do you believe that there should always be hope at the end of a book?

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WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a passage of 1,000 words which entwines the love of a hobby (such as gardening) with a character's emotional journey.

OR

B) Take a look at some chapters of your own writing and examine which of the characters interact with each of the others. Write a fresh chapter which alters who interacts with whom.

NOTES
