

## **Book Group Discussion Questions for THE GUARDIAN**

1. Could you relate to thirteen-year-old Sileas in Chapter 1? How? Do you remember having a crush on a perfect older guy when you were that age?
2. Sileas and Ian had a strong childhood friendship. What role did Sileas's memories of Ian from when she was a little girl and when she was thirteen play in the development of their relationship after his return from France?
3. Ian was forced to marry. Have you ever been forced to do something—perhaps leave a job or a relationship—that upset you very much at the time but that turned out to be the best thing that could have happened?
4. Redemption is a theme of the book. Ian initially feels guilty about not being home to fight in the Battle of Flodden. What else does he feel guilty about later? Do you think he succeeded in redeeming himself with his clan, his family, and Sileas? What other character redeems himself or herself?
5. Do you think Sileas made Ian suffer enough before she initially forgave him? What were the things Ian did that truly redeemed him in Sileas's eyes?
6. Sileas is a young woman who is hungry for family. Discuss the relationships she developed with Ian's father, mother, and younger brother Niall and how her role in Ian's family helped her come into her own as a woman. What was

your reaction to how Ian's family members supported Sileas and prodded Ian?

7. Did you enjoy the camaraderie among the four heroes of the series? Did their friendship and banter ring true to you? Do you know men with that kind of close friendship?
8. Whose book are you looking forward to most—Alex's, Duncan's, or Connor's—and why does that particular hero appeal to you?
9. Did the inclusion of real historical characters, such as Archibald Douglas, Shaggy Maclean, Margaret Tudor, add to your enjoyment of the book? Who was the most fun or interesting?
10. Which of the other secondary characters was particularly important to the story or to your enjoyment of it? Teàrlag, Niall, Payton, Father Brian, Gòrdan, Philippa, Dina, or someone else? Why?