*The Brontë Plot: Book Club Questions*


Questions

1. The Lewis quote at the front of the book describes an aspect of Lucy at the beginning of this story. Why do you think she'd lost the power to enjoy books? Is there something in our lives that we can fail to see clearly and lose enjoyment for?
2. Sid is one of the author's favorites. What character aspect do you think she found so attractive? She doesn't tell you a lot about his background – any thoughts as to "his story?"
3. Was James justified in feeling so hurt when he found the forged inscriptions? How did he perceive Lucy's struggle? Was it a "betrayal" like he claimed?
4. Why did Helen hold onto the watch? What was she really afraid to let go of? But what did she lose along the way?
5. In London, both women begin to change. Why? Do you think James is right that "strings bind less tightly" away from home?
6. Lucy talks about "boiling a frog." What does she mean?
7. What changed in Lucy in Haworth, even before her wandering to Top Withens? And, at Top Withens, why did Edward Rochester s journey make such sense to her?
8. Do you agree with Lucy that each person has her own "worldview?" How did hers change? How did James's? Helen's?
9. How do you think Helen's journey will affect her final days with her family?
10. Lucy's meeting with her father was not what she expected or hoped. What do you think of her letter? Her reasons for leaving without a personal goodbye? What did walking away mean for her? And what do you think she meant when she said "wholeness lies somewhere else entirely?" Will her father understand?
11. At the end, Lucy works hard to change – even her reading choices change. Do you think she'll succeed or as James once contended "people never change?"
12. Will Lucy and James make it as a couple? Why or why not? Do they see each other more or less clearly now?
13. The story is one of choices – How do you see them playing out with each and every character? In your own life? Are the ones "not made" as powerful as the ones we consciously make? Is there a difference between them?