

# Roan Rose

A novel by Juliet Waldron

## Book Club Questions

1. What character did you like most and/or least?
2. Were there situations in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century **Roan Rose** with which you can identify?
3. Would you like to experience life as a medieval person? Why and/or why not?
4. Do you feel Rose confronts issues which remain pertinent to women's lives today?
5. What emotions did the end of this story evoke in you, the reader? What thoughts?
6. Rose is "only a common person," unlike the young aristocrats she serves. How does this affect the way she is treated?
7. If you could take a brief trip to the past, who among the characters would you chose to be?
8. Do you think Rose was a good wife? A good mother?
9. Faith was an integral part of 15<sup>th</sup> Century life. Would you have liked more or less of it in the story? What strikes you most about Rose's faith?
10. Historical novels often deal with the rich and famous, but the less-privileged can be interesting, too. Discuss why or why not this might be so.
11. What do you think about the way Richard and Anne found a husband for Rose? In medieval terms, was this marriage "the action of a good lord?"
12. Do you think Hugh was a good choice for Rose? Do you think she loved him?
13. Do you think the Countess of Warwick was a good mother to her daughters?
14. Richard III is a popular character for historical novels. If you've read other fiction about the Wars of Roses, what do you think about the way he is portrayed here?
15. The mystery of the Princes in the Tower is central to much Ricardian fiction, but not so here. Do you think their disappearance should be more important to Rose?
16. Do you think Anne had sufficient reason to distrust Richard after the death at Tewkesbury of her first husband, Edward of Lancaster?
17. It has been said that "Biology is Destiny." Female aristocrat and commoner alike shared many experiences in a medieval world where women's roles were narrowly defined. Do you think this remains to some extent true today?
18. Do you think any of the characters in this book could be called "Heroic?" Why or why not?
19. If you were a mother, magically living in the Middle Ages, and could employ a "poppet" to care for and entertain your children, would you? What are the advantages or disadvantages for all concerned?
20. Did you feel that Anne, Rose, Richard, George and Isabel are types you might meet today, or do you feel separated from them and from their choices/behavior by the five hundred years which lie between us?

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