**WISHES, LIES, & FIREFLIES**

**By Claire Yezbak Fadden**

Book Club Discussion

Addie Burhan never allowed the choice she made eighteen years ago to control her life. A goal not easily accomplished in 1940, when an unplanned pregnancy left women with few options. But after hearing gossip about her former boyfriend Barry Gallatin at the weekly Sewing Circle – codename for ladies’ poker night–Addie realizes everything she held sacred is about to be crushed.

Barry and his family have returned to her sleepy town in southwestern Pennsylvania. It’s bad enough that he broke her heart to marry her then-friend, Nora, but now Addie’s close-knit circle wants to welcome the two-faced woman back into their group.

Within weeks, her teenage son meets the Gallatins’ daughter. A romance blooms, swirling Addie into a panic. She can't let him fall in love with this girl. Her Lebanese upbringing and strong faith have kept her from revealing her past. And now that secret will destroy two families. But if she doesn’t tell the truth–those same lives will be shattered.

1) Addie Burhan must intercede in her son, Luke’s romance with Genna. Does she go about separating them in the right way? What would you have done differently?

2) When her sister, Beth and their friends, Helene, Mabel and Peg, encourage Nora to join their group, Addie panics. Still Addie keeps her true reasons a secret. Should she have told them the truth, and enlisted their support, instead of trying to fix everything by herself?

3) Beth, the older sister, is entangled with her own life. She is navigating a drunk, abusive husband, two twin teenager daughters and a son. Living on a shoestring and keeping her own family together, she has overlooked many inconsistencies of Addie’s life, until now. How could Beth have been more attentive to Addie’s situation? What are some ways she could make up for the lost time?

4) Successful businessman, beautiful wife, healthy children, wealth and respect. Barry Gallatin appears to be the winner in life. What do we learn about Barry that reminds us that everyone is struggling in their own way?

5) The Sewing Circle ladies volunteer at their church. Addie wants to deny Nora this important social connection. How are social connections vital, especially in small towns? How does this action reveal Addie’s short-sightedness and insecurity where Nora is concerned?

7) Ted joins AA and promises Beth that things will be different. Does Beth believe him? Should she? How does her back-up plan provide her security?

**Caution: Spoilers**

8) Did you suspect Dante’s role in the kidnappings? If so, when were you first tipped off to his deceit?