

# Four in the Garden

## Reflection Questions

1. The theme of this book is that life can transform us if we trust. How did this book illustrate that theme? How do you define spiritual transformation? Why is it important?
2. This story is told in first person so readers would feel as if they were experiencing it firsthand. In what situations did you relate to Cherished?
3. What scene or section impacted you the most and why?
4. What elements of the Garden of Eden story did you find in this book? In what ways did the stories differ?
5. Although this book is classified as fantasy, the author wrote about spiritual realities he believed to be true. What elements in this story do you believe are true? What elements do you consider fictional?
6. At the beginning of this story, how did Cherished respond to the Teachers? To Creator? What role did each play in Cherished's development?
7. Cherished's misconceptions about Creator were corrected over the course of this story. Identify those misconceptions. Which misconceptions about God do people often have? Why are they common misconceptions?
8. How did Cherished's relationship with Creator change over time? What triggered those changes?
9. Radiance saw herself as unimportant in relation to her service to Creator. In what ways did Radiance change? How did she accomplish those changes? In what situations do you put service ahead of self-nurture? Does self-nurture enhance or hinder spirituality? Explain.
10. Blaze represented those who fail to trust and try to manage life on their own. Did you find it easy or difficult to sympathize with Blaze? In what ways did you identify with Blaze?
11. This story explored the tension between dependence and independence. What conclusions did this story make regarding free will and independence?
12. Creator's love was a constant in Cherished's life, but that love sometimes expressed itself as discipline or withdrawal. Give an example of loving discipline. Give an example of loving withdrawal or separation. Would God ever act this way toward people? Why or why not?
13. When Creator disciplined Cherished, did you view Creator as patient or punishing? Why? Discipline or separation implies pain. Does your view of God allow Him to act in a way that might cause you pain? Can love ever lead to pain? Explain.
14. Cherished's relationship with Creator was damaged multiple times because Cherished's ego often got in the way. How was the relationship healed in these situations? What was Creator's highest priority for Cherished? How did this priority determine Creator's response?
15. How did this story affect your relationship with God or your understanding of God? Which aspect of Creator did you have the hardest time accepting? Why?