

# ADRIFT

MOLLY CHASE SERIES, BOOK TWO  
BY RHONDA ORTIZ

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**ONE-WORD REVIEW:** Start off with your one-word review of the book or a section of the book. (Nice way to get everyone's reactions on the table.)

**MOST MEMORABLE SCENE:** What was the most cathartic, humorous, disturbing, or simply memorable moment in the novel? What about the scene struck you?

**CHARACTER ARCS:** Which characters surprised you? How so?

**TRAUMA AND HEALING:** In *Adrift*, Molly tells Dr. Christianson about her lapses and the events following her father's suicide. In what ways does this bring healing? How does her confession move the story forward?

**ELIZA'S DECISION:** As a young single mother, Eliza gave up her son and allowed Daniel to raise him so that Benjamin would "have a future" as a legitimately born white man in eighteenth century America. But Cassandra, James and Lydia Walden's daughter, describes white passing as a betrayal. In what ways are you sympathetic to Eliza's decision, and in what ways are you not? What decision might Eliza have made, had the story been set today?

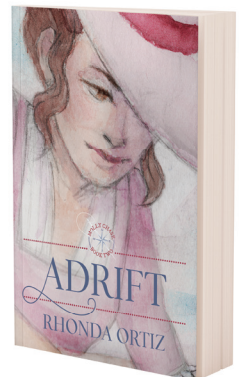
**PARENTS AND CHILDREN:** Compare and contrast Thaddeus and Harriet Warren's parenting. How would you describe their relationship with their children? What motivates each of them?

**THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE:** At the beginning of *Adrift*, Daniel is still in love with Molly, or so Antoine de Laurent surmises. Does this change your view of Daniel and his courtship in *In Pieces*? If so, how?

**STANDING ON PRINCIPLE:** Josiah's conversion to Catholicism stands in the way of his and Molly's marriage. Where does he stand on principle, and where is he willing to compromise? Why? Would you have made the same decision?

**MOLLY'S EDUCATION:** As a child, Molly gave up on her education because Josiah called her stupid, and Josiah is determined to make amends. Is he successful? If so, did it play out the way you thought it would?

**MOLLY'S FAITH:** Molly describes her religious practice as little more than "her assent to the Apostle's Creed, a firm conviction that anyone who sought God would find Him, and her nascent but growing life of prayer" (Ch. 15). How has her faith developed from the start of *In Pieces* to the end of *Adrift*? Other than the fact of Catholicism, how does Josiah's faith influence hers?



**BENJAMIN:** *Adrift* raises but never answers the question of what is owing to children born out of wedlock. Had Daniel not married Emmeline Potts, and had Benjamin been able to convince him, should Daniel and Eliza have married, for Benjamin's sake? Why or why not? Also: What do you think will happen to Benjamin, now that he's in Boston?

**OBEDIENCE:** Molly and Josiah joke about wifely obedience, but their conversation turns serious when Molly recalls Daniel's assault, ahead of her and Josiah's wedding night. What are the various historical and contemporary Christian views on marriage and obedience, and how do you see them reflected in the novel?

**MARK'S CONUNDRUM:** Mark Findley lies to Josiah about his brother-in-law's dock being used for suspicious purposes. Do you blame him? What would you have done in that situation?

**GOING HOME:** Why is it important that Molly returns to her childhood home?

