## COME BACK FOR ME: A NOVEL Sharon Hart-Green

Loss, trauma, memory, and, above all, the ties of family and being Jewish are the elements that weave together this panoramic story. *Come Back for Me* travels through time and place only to bring us, ultimately, to the connections between generations.



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## **DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS**

1. The novel begins with Suzy Kohn and her response to her uncle's death. How does her grief manifest itself throughout the novel? In what way does it shed light on her relationship with her parents?

2. Artur Mandelkorn's tie to his sister Manya is severed early in the novel when the Nazi soldiers forcibly separate them. What are the various ways that Artur attempts to keep that relationship alive?

3. Beyond saving Artur and Manya, what role does Ferko ultimately play in the novel?

4. How would you compare Artur's attitude toward going to Israel versus how he feels when he arrives? What are the reasons for this change?

5. How would you compare the two characters named Emil in the novel? How have their life experiences influenced their individual choices in life?

6. What role does Bella play in the novel? How does she eventually come to terms with the untimely death of her husband?

7. To what extent is this novel a coming of age story of Suzy Kohn? What are some of the significant events that bring about a change in her life?

8. In his discussion with Suzy, Artur Mandelkorn asserts that "tenacity" is a key ingredient in Jewish survival. What role does tenacity play in his own life?

9. The title "Come Back for Me" is taken from a crucial line in the novel. What broader significance do you think it has in the story? To what extent is "coming back" a recurrent theme, and if so, how?

10. How does this novel shed light on what happened to the Jews during the Holocaust? How does it depict the lingering effects of the Holocaust in the lives of the next generation?

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