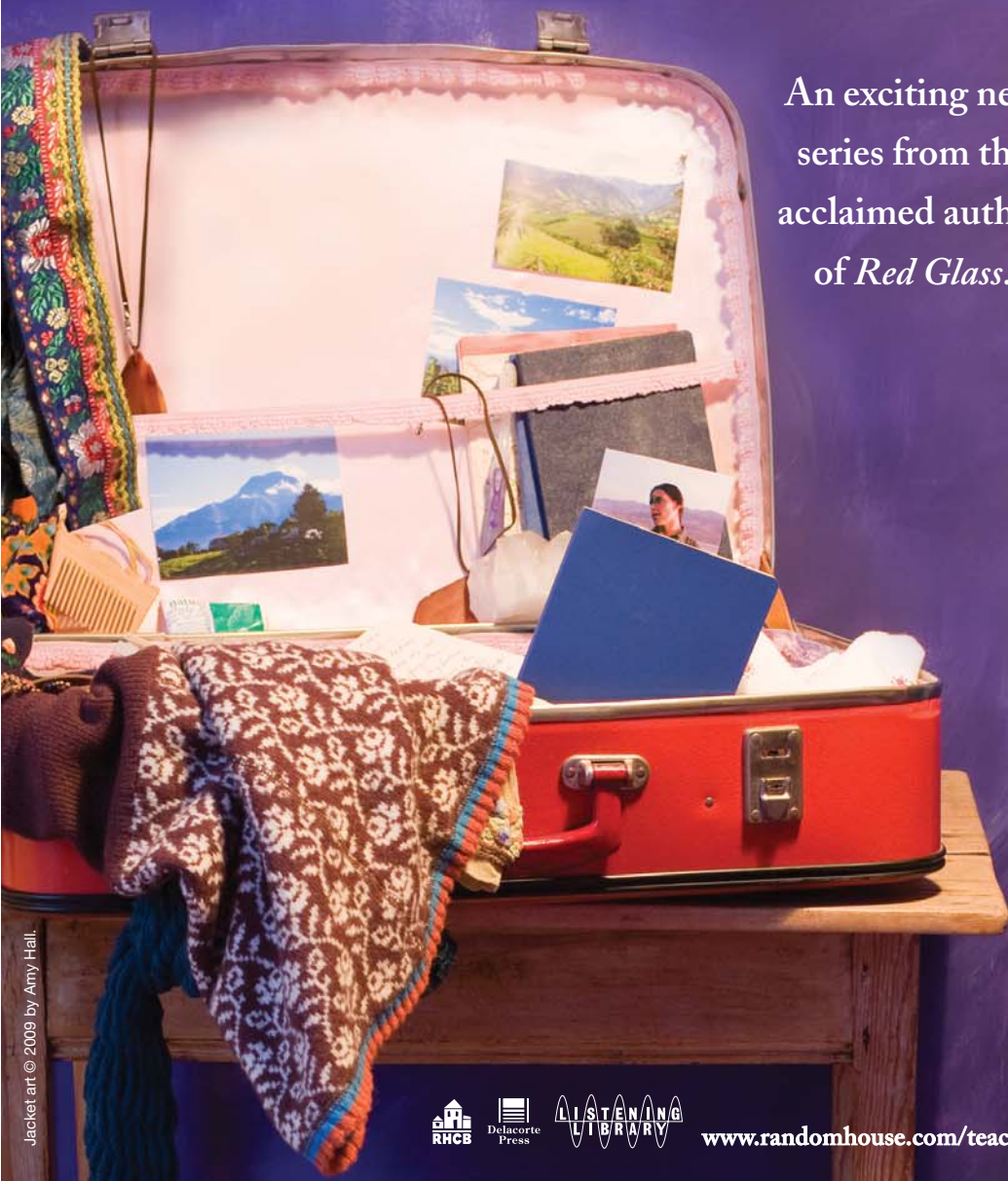
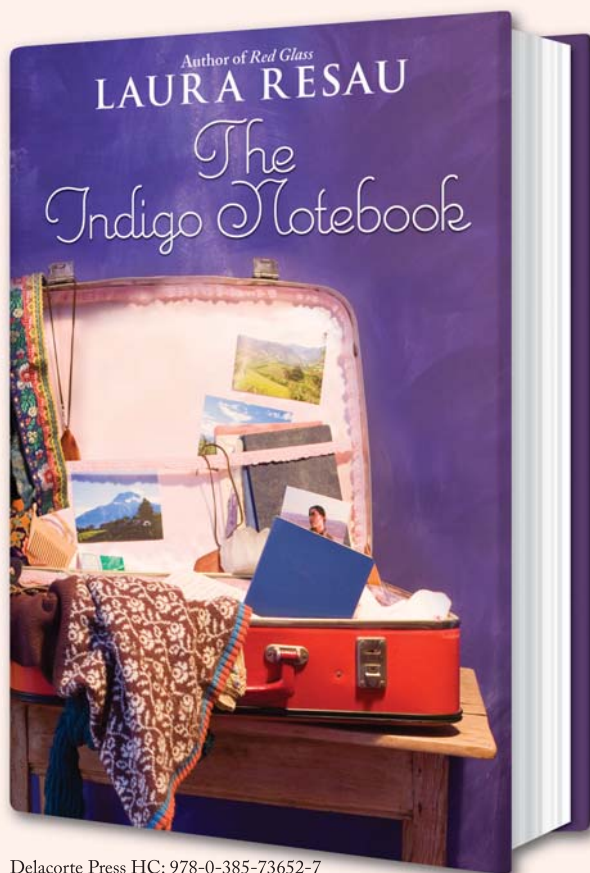


# The Indigo Notebook

## READERS GUIDE

An exciting new series from the acclaimed author of *Red Glass*.





Delacorte Press HC: 978-0-385-73652-7

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## About the Book

*Zeeta's life is spent roaming the globe with her free-spirited mother, a life adventure that takes an unexpected turn when Zeeta meets Wendell, an American boy searching for his birth parents. Through the search, both Wendell and Zeeta experience the thrill of imminent danger, but also the fear of change as both face futures different from what they have come to expect.*

Fifteen-year-old Zeeta lives a life many teenagers envy. She travels around the world, attends school in foreign countries, experiences the food and culture of exotic lands, learns new languages, meets people with different religions and beliefs—and her mother believes rules are an illusion. On their way to Ecuador, Zeeta meets Wendell, an American boy who asks her to help him find his birth parents. Zeeta accepts the challenge, and together their search leads them to a small village where secrets abound. With the help of the local *curandero* (a spiritual healer) and others in the village, Wendell discovers his birth father is a hermit involved in illegal activity. At the same time Layla, Zeeta's mother, finally decides that a normal life in America should be her family's next move. Faced with upheavals in their life circumstances, Wendell and Zeeta find solace together in a crystal cave where they both come to realize they are content with their lives and the discoveries they have made.

# Questions for Group Discussion

- One of Zeeta's survival skills for relocating every year is her ability to make new friends quickly. What techniques does Zeeta use to find people to befriend? What aspect of her nature does she have to overcome in order to make friends? How do her notebooks help her?
- Born in 1207 into a family of learned theologians, Rumi, through poetry, expressed the absolute love of God and the idea that love alone is capable of revealing the truth of love. How do Rumi's poetry and beliefs affect both Layla and Zeeta? What effect do the poetry and beliefs have on their life choices? When does Zeeta begin to give credit to some of Rumi's beliefs? Why?
- Layla and Zeeta's early-morning trek to the waterfall could have ended in Layla's death, and the incident transforms their lives. What changes occur in Layla's life that have an adverse affect on Zeeta? How does Zeeta respond to the changes? What could Zeeta have done differently?
- Zeeta's life experiences are an asset to her and Wendell as they search for his birth parents. What does she contribute that Wendell desperately needs in order to find his parents? How does Zeeta's desire to find her own father help Wendell?
- Being a *curandero*, or spiritual healer, is valued in many countries, but Wendell does not understand his "gift," feeling afraid and ashamed to let others know he possesses this power. How do Zeeta and Taita Silvio help him recognize the goodness of his gift? How does Taita use his power to help Wendell?
- Why does Taita lie to Wendell about his birth parents? How does the lie ultimately put Wendell in danger? What does Taita learn about himself from the experience with Wendell?
- What is the significance of the red ribbon Wendell uses to tie the letters together that he has written to his birth parents? How does the ribbon connect him to his birth family? How does this knowledge affect Wendell?
- After Wendell finds his father, Faustino, Zeeta worries that Wendell is in danger, but at the same time her own life is falling apart, and she is fearful of losing her mother to a life they will both hate. Why is Zeeta so confused about her mother's relationship with Jeff? Why is Layla so willing to cast aside the life she loves?
- Don Celestino, the blind man, and Gaby both help Zeeta in her time of desperate need, proving that friendships can be formed in a short period of time. What do they offer Zeeta that no one else is able or willing to provide? How does their help ultimately save Zeeta and Wendell's lives?
- Wendell naively trusts Faustino because he is his father and Wendell has wanted to find his birth father all of his life. How does Faustino prove himself to be a wicked man? What is he willing to lose to gain wealth? Is there hope for a relationship between Faustino and Wendell? Why or why not?

# Journal Writing

## ANSWER AN *INDIGO NOTEBOOK* QUESTION

*If you had one wish, what would it be?  
What do you do when you are feeling sad?  
What matters most to you in life?  
What do you want more than anything?*

One of the ways Zeeta makes friends with new people quickly is to ask them questions about life and to write the responses in her indigo notebook. Interview someone you've just met in Zeeta's style and record the answers in a journal. Reflect on what the answers reveal about the person.

## DO YOU REALLY WANT WHAT YOU WANT?

A Rolling Stones' song says, "You can't always get what you want / But if you try sometimes well you just might find / You get what you need." The lyrics of the song prove true for the characters in *The Indigo Notebook*. Select a main character and write a journal entry to show how these lyrics are true for that character. Write a second journal entry about how these lyrics may relate to your own life.

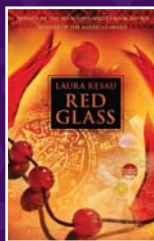
## About the Author

Laura Resau is the award-winning author of the young adult novels *What the Moon Saw* and *Red Glass*. Her first middle-grade novel, *Star in the Forest*, will be published in spring 2010. She lived in the Mixtec region of Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years as an English teacher and anthropologist. She now lives with her husband, their baby, and a dog in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she writes and teaches English as a Second Language.

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