

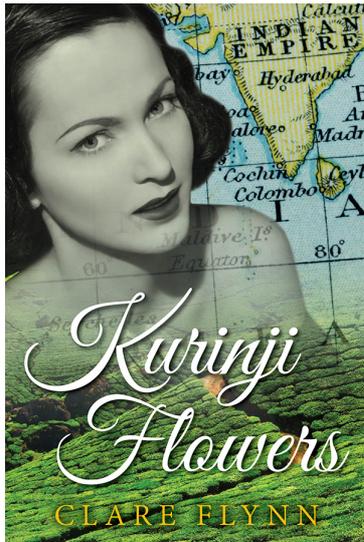
## KURINJI FLOWERS

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**Clare Flynn**

"Spellbinding! The story will stay with me a long time. I couldn't put this book down. "

*" Amazon 5 star reviewer.*



**Marriage to a man she barely knows. Exile to a country she doesn't know at all**

An emotional love story set in the last days of colonial India. After an abusive relationship with a predatory older man, debutante Ginny Dunbar is publicly disgraced when her artist lover exhibits a nude painting of her in a smart London gallery. All her mother's hopes for a society wedding are dashed until she lowers her sights and pushes Ginny into a hasty marriage with a tea planter from South India.

Colonial life doesn't sit well with Ginny. She finds the world of the expatriate community shallow and empty. Caught between fear of and fascination for India and its people, her world is shaken when she meets Jag Mistry, who opens her eyes and her heart. But just as she thinks she has found

happiness, World War 2 intervenes.

A poignant story of love, loss, betrayal and redemption set against the dying days of colonial India.

**Clare Flynn** writes **historical fiction with a strong sense of time and place and compelling characters.** Her books often deal with characters who are displaced - forced out of their comfortable lives and familiar surroundings. She is a graduate of Manchester University where she read English Language and Literature.

After a career in international marketing, working on brands from nappies to tinned tuna and living in Paris, Milan, Brussels, London and Sydney, she ran her own consulting business for 15 years and now lives on the Sussex coast where she writes full-time – and can look out of her window and see the sea.

When not writing and reading, Clare loves to paint with watercolours and grabs any opportunity to travel - sometimes under the guise of research.



**If you want to avoid SPOILERS please read the book first!**

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- Ginny is sexually abused by an older man after the death of her father. How much does this relationship impact on the rest of her life? In what ways?
- Marry in haste, repent at leisure. How true is this aphorism of Ginny's marriage to Tony? Does Ginny work hard enough at the marriage? Does Tony? What are the reasons for the failure of their marriage?
- How would you characterise Ginny? Do you like her? How much is she a victim of her circumstances and how much is what happens to her down to her own behaviour and choices?
- Did Jagadish Mistry love Ginny? Why did he behave as he did?
- Which of the characters do you find the most interesting and why?
- Can you find any justification in Tony's keeping Jag's letter a secret from Ginny?
- Ginny was reluctant to embrace the life of the ex-pat British community. Why? How might things have been different if she had played a more active role in the world of The Club?
- How important is Ginny's love of painting? How does this impact on her various relationships, on her perceptions of India and on her life?
- Ginny has a difficult relationship with her mother. How does this affect the choices she makes and why do you think they didn't always get on?
- If you could give Ginny some advice what would it be and when would you give it?

## Book Club Discussion Questions for Kurinji Flowers

- How important is Ginny's friendship with Hector? Why are they drawn to each other? Will she accept his offer of a platonic marriage? Should she?
- How successful was the author in evoking colonial India? How would you have adapted to life in pre-independence Mudoorayam?
- There are two scenes involving Tony and an elephant. In the first, his actions enhance Ginny's opinion of him. In the second she is disgusted. Is she right to react the way she does?
- How much are Tony and Ginny a product of their times?
- What would you say are the key themes of the novel?
- The book is written in the first person so we see the world entirely through Ginny's eyes. How reliable is she as a narrator?
- Both Ginny and Hector fall in love with unobtainable Indian men. How are their relationships different? How do these relationships impact the story?
- After the disappearance of Jag and the death of Pud, Ginny says "I felt I'd exhausted my possibilities of happiness. It was as though I'd lived my life so far without leaving any tracks." What does she mean by leaving no tracks and is she right?

Clare loves hearing from readers so please connect with her on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/authorclareflynn](http://www.facebook.com/authorclareflynn) or Twitter [www.twitter.com/clarefly](http://www.twitter.com/clarefly), or via email [clare@clareflynn.co.uk](mailto:clare@clareflynn.co.uk) .