***The Ringmaster’s Wife* Discussion Questions**

1. Lady Rosamund Easling was born into a family heritage of wealth and opportunity. Armilda (Mable) Burton wasn’t born with such advantages, but found them later in life. Though these two women began their journeys in very different places, both shared a longing for something more—the courage to step out and live the life they’d imagined. How would their lives have been different if Rosamund and Mable hadn’t been willing to risk everything in order to pursue their calling? Would Rosamund have stayed in the circus if Mable hadn’t been a mentor in her life?
2. The circus welcomed an eclectic mix of performers from varying ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This was eye-opening to Rosamund, whose relatively sheltered life was dramatically changed when she became a part of the Ringling Brothers’ circus show. How does Rosamund’s view of the world around her change through her first years as a performer?
3. Despite finding his niche as an agent for the circus, Colin Keary carried a pocket watch from his youth—a constant reminder that he was attempting to outrun the brokenness of his past. How can past brokenness affect our decision making in the future? Would Colin have let go of his past and hoped for a future with Rosamund if Mable hadn’t urged him to do so?
4. For all of the happiness John and Mable Ringling enjoyed in their life together, they had to overcome numerous obstacles. How did their shared interests, love, and faith in each other allow them to weather the difficulties in their marriage?
5. Rosamund’s journey begins with her pursuit of a calling outside her family’s strict expectations for her life. Though she did eventually find love with Colin, the journey wasn’t without loss—she never fully regained her sight. When an unforeseen experience changes our expectations about life, can we still find contentment in new circumstances? How did Rosamund and Colin move on from great losses in their lives?