

Welcome to Adams Grove...  
where the tea is sweet,  
but trouble is brewing.



From USA Today bestselling author  
**Nancy Naigle**

## *Sweet Tea and Secrets*

Book 1 ~ An Adams Grove Novel

### Reading Group Guide

1. The story opens at Pearl's surprise birthday party. Consider Jill's reaction when she realizes Pearl wasn't surprised and has invited Garrett. Do you think Jill was justified in her disappearing act?
2. Discuss Pearl's character. What are her values? Have you ever known someone like Pearl?
3. Jill may have rebounded a little too quickly with Bradley Kase, but do you think it's unusual that she expected more from Garrett than someone she barely knew?
4. Clyde made quite an entrance. Did he add to the story?
5. Carolanne makes an appearance early in the book. In what respects is she the archetypal best friend? Of all the people who form Jill's "support system," do you think Carolanne is the strongest member? Why or why not?
6. Garrett is a sexy guy. Besides the chemistry between Jill and him, what do they have in common? What does their relationship have going for it? What's your long-range prognosis?
7. What was the most romantic thing Garrett did for Jill in this story?
8. What flourishes does the author add in depicting an accurate portrayal of small-town living?
9. Nancy was asked to write a six word memoir for Jill. She wrote, "Live life the way Pearl would." Describe how the story made you feel in six words.
10. Are there any characters that seem to be screaming for their own story?

#### **Mark your favorite Pearl-ism from *Sweet Tea and Secrets*:**

- Better to fight for what you really want than to be left wanting what you didn't fight for.
- Here's the good thing about the future. It comes one day at a time. Follow your heart each day and you'll get where you're supposed to go.
- Love's kind of like sweet tea. The secret is all in having the patience to let it steep.
- Pearl affectionately referred to her arthritis as Arthur, like a pesky guest who had overstayed a visit. She'd say, "Arthur's givin' me a fit today. I wish I could make him a sweater, and send him packin' forever."
- Everyone in town had probably heard Pearl's rule of five speech at one time or another. She always swore five days was the perfect cooling off period. Time enough to look at the issue without clouding it up from emotions, and not so long that it was impolite.
- Small town pluses were small town minuses when you wanted to be left alone.
- Those you'd share a family recipe or church bulletin with proved a family connection better than any swanky, scientific DNA test.
- That's the good thing about small towns. If you don't know how you are, everybody else does.