

REMBRANDT'S SHADOW

READERS GUIDE FOR BOOK CLUBS

- 1. How did the main character, Sylvie Rosenberg, change throughout the story?**
- 2. On the cover of the book, is the girl on the tracks looking forward or looking back?**
- 3. The title "Rembrandt's Shadow" holds two different meanings. What does it mean to you?**
- 4. Which of the three main characters, Sylvie, Michael, or Angela, can you relate to?**
- 5. Did Sylvie ever truly escape the Holocaust?**
- 6. What is the turning point in the book for you?**
- 7. Michael resents his mother's materialism. Why do you think she needs "things" so much? How does Sylvie's son Michael's life contrast with his mother's? How are the lessons in their lives similar?**
- 8. How does Angela relate to Sylvie's character? Does Sylvie remind you of a dark protagonist from another novel?**
- 9. Birds are a theme throughout the novel ... what do they represent?**
- 10. What is it about seeing the portrait of Rembrandt in the New York museum that made Sylvie come to some revelation? How do you feel about the restitution of pilfered art? Should the museums display them on their walls without showing provenance, or should they be returned to the families in honor of the lives they lost during the Holocaust?**