



“...fabulous.... Not just a great story, it’s a beautiful example of how to live.”

—**Jeanne McWilliams Blasberg**, author of *EDEN: A Novel*

“This book pulled me in like a magnet and kept me in don’t-want-to-put-it-down mode until the last page.”

—**BRICK Magazine**

“The novel soars with passages about upper Michigan’s unique beauty...*Hard Cider* is a story about following a dream...”

—**Foreword Reviews**

“...Through its exploration of the many forms family can take and the possibility of new beginnings in midlife, *Hard Cider* is easy to love.”

—**Gayle Brandeis**, author of the Bellwether prize winning novel *The Book of Dead Birds*

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HARD CIDER

By Barbara Stark-Nemon

1. Why do you think the author chose the title *Hard Cider*?
2. What are the family issues in *Hard Cider* that strike you most? What changes in the way we form families have occurred from the time Abbie Rose started trying to have children to the contemporary time when the novel takes place? What challenges do adoption, infertility and surrogacy present in this story?
3. How do the themes of fertility, growth, and expansion reveal themselves in *Hard Cider*?
4. Why do you think Abbie Rose persists in pursuing a business her husband doesn't fully support?
5. Discuss the themes of transformation and reinvention in this novel.
6. What role does setting play in this novel? Have you been to Michigan? Do you want to go visit now?
7. Were you familiar with hard cider before reading this novel? Have you ever tried it? Why does the author go into detail about the growing of the apples and the making of cider?
8. Abbie Rose is pursuing an encore career. Do you think it is now more common for women to pursue second careers?

9. Fiber arts are important to Abbie Rose. What does Abbie's knitting and quilting reveal about her character? How does it influence her life?
10. Why do you think Abbie Rose tried a tarot reading?
11. Discuss the labyrinth scene. Why is it important to the book?
12. What are the characteristics Abbie Rose has, as a parent, that help her? Do you think she succeeds as a parent? What role does emotional intelligence play in this novel?
13. What was your favorite scene?
14. What do you hope for Abbie Rose? What do you think she hopes for herself?

Barbara is happy to speak to writing groups, book groups, OLLI classes, and more!
Connect with her at one of the following to arrange your event:

Twitter: @bstarknemon

facebook.com/starknemon

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bannstark/>

www.barbarastarknemon.com

bstarknemon@gmail.com