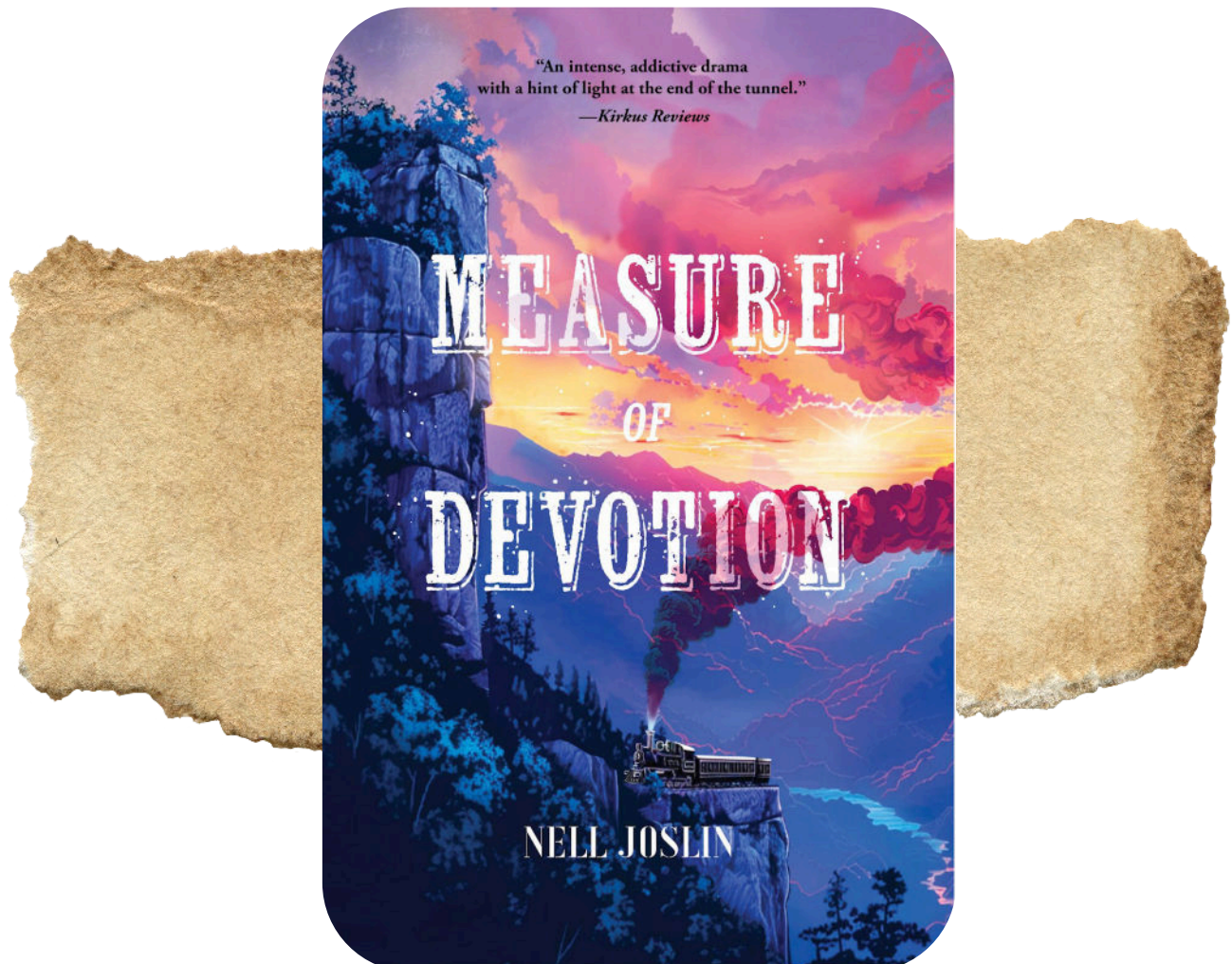


# READING GROUP GUIDE



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# MEETING IDEAS

Look at maps of Lookout Mountain, and of the broader South. Can you see what the characters faced in battle? Can you envision the distance of Susannah's journey?

Check out the fashions required of women at this time. What would Susannah have worn? What were her shoes like?

Read Lincoln's speech.

Go online to find old Civil War newspapers.

See if you can find pictures of what medical supplies were available to Susannah.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Many people don't know that mothers could go to battlefield sites during the Civil War to help wounded sons. Why do you think this is not widely known?
2. Do you know where the title comes from? Why do you think the author chose it?
3. How is *Measure of Devotion* similar to our time and how is it dissimilar?
4. What are the themes of this novel?
5. Needlework and food foraging/preparation make multiple appearances in the novel. How do they support the narrative and help move the story forward?
6. In a society where women had little power, how and where did Susannah find her power?
7. Did Susannah leave home for the battlefield for her son, herself, or both?
8. Susannah's family relationships are fraught. How does her own behavior exacerbate or alleviate their problems? In what ways does she take responsibility for her actions?
9. How does this novel treat faith?
10. How does Susannah's family mirror/reflect the country at the time of the Civil War?
11. Her relationship with Letty is not equal even though Letty is free. But the women share a mutual respect and friendship. Discuss.
12. Susannah grows as a person as she ages. Do you think there could have been hope for her son to do the same?
13. How is the natural world important in this novel?
14. What hope does this novel offer?

# CONNECT

Nell is happy to meet with book clubs online or, as possible, in person.

Please contact her through her website form:

<https://measureofdevotion.com/contact/>



***For media and events, please contact:***

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