

## The Widow's Walk

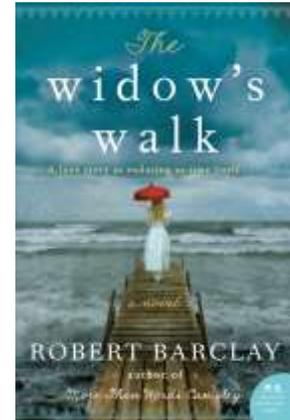
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By Robert Barclay

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### Introduction

In the spirit of *The Notebook* and *The Time Traveler's Wife* comes Robert Barclay's haunting and romantic novel of passion, destiny, loss and an eternal love that will bring two people together across time.



His name was Garrett Richmond and he had always wanted to live by the ocean. So when the opportunity to buy—and renovate—the old home known as Seaside arrived, he leapt at the chance. Never mind that his friends and family thought he was crazy, he knew he could return this lonely mansion, worn by time, wind, and neglect, to its former beauty. But Seaside was more than just a project; it was spot that had called to him his entire life.

And then one night he saw her . . .

Her name is Constance Elizabeth Canfield and she tells him Seaside has been her home for over 150 years. But Constance is no ghost; rather, she claims that she has been somehow magically trapped between this life and the next. At first, Garrett can't believe her crazy story—the woman had to be lying! And yet, there was something about Constance that was from another time . . .

Soon this mysterious woman and flesh and blood man share a closeness they cannot deny. But just as their love begins to bloom, Constance's presence starts mysteriously fading away, soon to be gone forever. Is their love doomed—or is it strong enough to transcend time, and even death itself?

### Questions for Discussion

1. The book makes great mention of a concept called “unconditional love.” What is your definition of unconditional love? Do you believe that you have ever loved someone unconditionally? And if so, do you still love him or her that way to this very day?
2. When Garrett and Constance visit Brooke Wentworth, Brooke is not at all what Garrett expects. And when she takes them into her secret study, they are amazed to find that she seems to have many of the answers to their questions. Would you have believed Brooke? If not, why not? And if you chose not to believe her, then what would you have done instead? Did Garrett and Constance really have any other choice but to accept Brooke's pronouncements?

3. When Brooke first tells them that in order to break the grip of the *mora mortis* they must both risk their lives by re-creating Constance's death, Garrett is appalled. Would you have had enough faith in your own brand of unconditional love to take the leap like they did?
4. Constance tells Garrett on more than one occasion that despite all of the world's advancements and the great gains made in women's rights, she still prefers her world of 1840, and she unashamedly gives her reasons. As a modern-day woman do you ever long to live in a more genteel time, when things were less harried and complicated? Or are you the sort who much prefers the many advantages of the here and now, despite how hectic life has become ?
5. Constance is the wife of a whaling captain who is sometimes gone at sea for as long as two years at a time. Could you abide such an existence? Would your love be strong enough for you to wait faithfully for him, while every day you hoped and prayed that he might soon return? Despite the customs of those days, was it too much for a husband to ask of his wife? Have you ever been in such a situation, perhaps with a husband who is serving in the military, or whose job requires that he be gone for long stretches at a time?
6. When Jack Rackham insults Adam, Adam immediately challenges Jack to a duel to the death with pistols. Despite that dueling was an accepted custom, was Adam right to insist upon his satisfaction in this way? Was it fair to Constance? If you had been a woman living during those times, do you think that you could have accepted your husband's need to do such a thing, even if it meant possibly losing him forever?
7. At the end of the book it is revealed that Garrett Richmond is really Adam Canfield reincarnated. Do you believe in reincarnation? Have you ever felt like you are the reincarnation of some other person who once wandered the earth before your time?
8. What do you believe will become of Garrett and Constance? Do you suppose that they will "live happily ever after" in the past? Or will their knowledge of the future cause them to regret leaving that time? Have you ever felt that you might prefer living in the past, and if so, why?