



# *The Kudzu Queen*

## By Mimi Herman

### Book Club Discussion Guide

- Mattie has been compared to Scout from the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*—what characteristics do Mattie and Scout have in common? How are they different?
- *The Kudzu Queen* raises questions of race, class, gender roles, sexuality, and power. How did the events in the book cause you to examine your own assumptions?
- Did you feel that Mattie was in danger at any point in your reading? What about Lynnette or Rose?
- Why is Mattie the right narrator for this story? How would the story be different if told from the point of view of a different character? (Lynnette, Danny, Glynis, etc.)
- Which characters in *The Kudzu Queen* drew you in? Who was the most relatable and why?
- *The Kudzu Queen* explains why and how kudzu came to populate highways and byways in the region. What sort of research do you imagine the author did?
- What did you notice about the time period and setting of the novel? What's changed and what has remained the same?