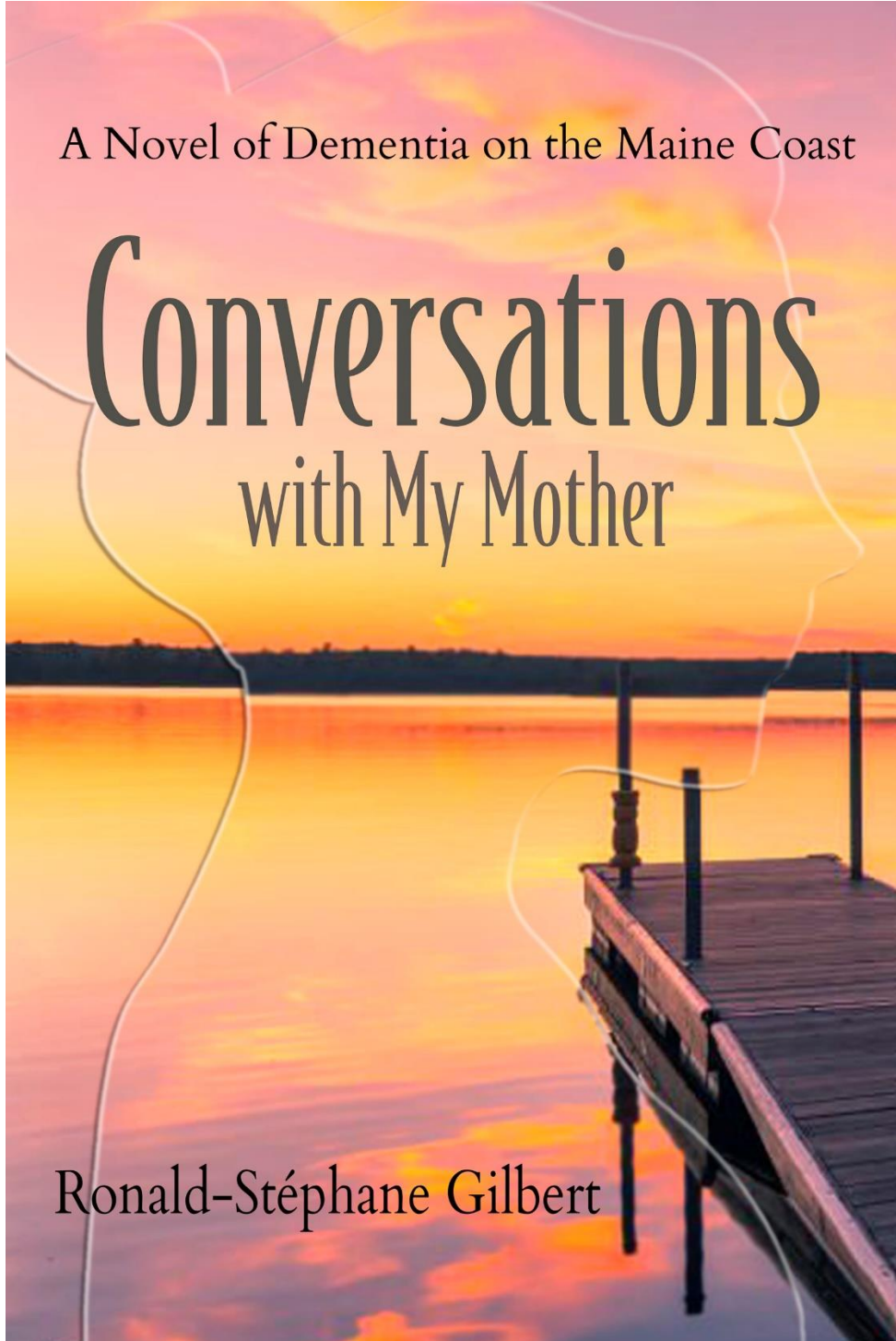


## For Book Clubs

A Novel of Dementia on the Maine Coast

# Conversations with My Mother

Ronald-Stéphane Gilbert



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **The Beginning**

Discuss the book's first chapter.

What incident or passage set the story in motion?

### **The Plot**

What is the primary challenge addressed?

What are the major book's themes?

What's the book's main point?

Is the story believable?

Does the book employ symbolism? Give examples.

Describe the book's tone.

Should any chapters have been eliminated?

Identify chapters or themes that you would have like further developed?

Who dominates the story — Rob, the narrator, his sister Diane, or his mother, Yvette?

### **The Characters**

How would you describe Diane, Rob, and Yvette?

Which was your favorite and what did you most like about him or her?

Which did you find most problematic and what did you like least about her or him?

What were Rob's, Diane's, and Yvette's biggest struggles?

What were their greatest strengths and weaknesses?

With which of the main characters did you most relate or empathize?

Did the characters remind you of anyone in your life? In public life?

Were Rob's, Diane's, and Yvette's characters believable?

How did the characters handle and express their emotions?

Were the characters one-dimensional or multi-dimensional?

How did the characters relate to one another?

Discuss their worldviews.

Did any of the main character's journeys come full circle?

Could you envision the characters in your mind?

How do you think you would act if you were in the same situation as Diane and Rob?

How did Diane, Ron, and Yvette change over the course of the book?

Did they learn any important lessons?

### **Settings**

Discuss the settings and their impact on the story.

Have you been to any of the book's locations?

Did the book make you want to visit any of the settings?

Would the book have been less/more effective with settings?

Were you able to envision its settings?

### **Point of View**

Discuss the book's point of view and whether it was effective.

Would you have preferred a different point of view?

How might a different point of view change the book?

### **The End**

Was the ending satisfying?

How would you have preferred the book to end?

Discuss the book's final sentence.

### **Beyond the Book**

Did the book lead you to revise your opinions or way of thinking?

What will you remember most about this book?

Did you learn something new?

Did the book cause you to do anything differently

**Just for Fun**

Who should have the leading roles in a movie version of the book?

Which Zodiac signs do you think each of the characters are?

What is the personality type of each main character?

What would you ask the author about the book?

Which emojis best capture the story?

What music would complement this book?