**Discussion Guide**

1. Which character in this novel do you identify with the most? Why?
2. In the novel, Clara is shown to have changed substantially from when the reader first meets her in *The Elusive Miss Ellison*. Do you find her story sympathetic? Have you ever had a situation where your opinion of another person has been challenged? What caused such a change?
3. Learning to trust is an important theme in this novel. What instances of trust (or lack thereof) did you find?
4. Clara is the daughter of parents who are very keen for their child to marry according to their social standing. Have you ever had to deal with other people’s expectations (spoken or unspoken) about your relationships? How did you deal with it?
5. If you could give Clara one piece of advice, what would it be? What advice would you give Benjamin?
6. In what ways do Clara and Benjamin change throughout the novel? What do you consider to be the biggest factor(s) in their change?
7. While this is a work of fiction, certain historical elements are referenced, such as the visit to the Marine Pavilion in Brighton. How did these historical details affect the narrative? How did they help you to feel a sense of time and place?
8. What were the most appealing parts of the book?
9. Did you enjoy the subplot concerning Benjamin’s sister and the Viscount Featherington?
10. What do you think happens next?