

## Book Discussion Questions for *Nermina's Chance*

The book opens in 1992 Bosnia where Nermina has suffered immeasurable loss. Do you feel she is justified in withholding the truth from Carl and Atika?

Prior to reading *Nermina's Chance*, were you aware of the war crimes that occurred in Bosnia (indeed, throughout the Western Balkans) between 1992 and 1995? How did this fictional account affect you?

Did this narrative inspire you to delve further into the historical details of the Balkan War and America's involvement?

In this fictional account of war, why do you think Nermina hasn't gone back to Bosnia? Do you imagine that she will do so in the future? Under what circumstances?

In literature and in real life, the archetypal concept of "wounded healer" is pervasive. Do you think Nermina's determination to counsel other trauma survivors is a good thing?

Do you think there were times when Nermina was in psychological danger in her professional role? On the flip-side: did you feel she ever endangered Jeff or Lisa in her professional interactions with them?

Even though the narrative is intensely plot-driven, there's a lot of emphasis on characterization. Do you feel like Carl has the capacity to change? Do you see him stepping into the role of a responsible father?

What about Jeff? How do you think he'll find a way to reconcile with Lisa? Or did you find yourself wanting him to form a lasting relationship with Nermina?

If you put yourself in Atika's place, do you think you could reconcile the "white lie" her mother has perpetuated for sixteen years? Could you open your heart to a near-stranger who proclaims he loves you?

Ultimately, do you feel Nermina has honored her mother, father, and brother with the choices she has made?