Defiance and Redemption, A Lifetime of Unbroken Bonds - Summary & Questions

DEFIANCE AND REDEMPTION, A LIFETIME OF UNBROKEN BONDS

Book Summary & Book Club Questions

Can a feisty, adolescent female better the future of generations in her family?

Based on a true story, the fiction novel *Defiance and Redemption: A Lifetime of Unbroken Bonds* is an absorbing epic that moves through decades and destinies. Set in exotic Ecuador, South America, in the early 20th century, it explores the lifestyle, humor, and drama in the world of three young women, Eva, Victoria, and Marta. The passionate nature of the youngest, Eva, causes her to defy the norms of her family, culture, and society, catapulting her into scandal, disgrace, and isolation. Eva's courage will inspire her friends to face their life challenges with perseverance and grit. Together, they will forge a lifetime bond that forms a bridge into a new world.

Defiance and Redemption blends personal and historical events into a collective, dramatic, and page-turning tale of self-determination, love, and sisterhood.

Dear Book Club Members,

My inspiration for *Defiance and Redemption: A Lifetime of Unbroken Bonds* was the series of events that formed my mother's coming of age. This occurred within a historically and culturally challenging period for women in Ecuador, South America, where she was born. Her courage and the choice she made to become an immigrant opened opportunities to generations that came after her.

I am fascinated by the resilience of women when they face societal restrictions and isolation. I am also impressed with the lasting bonds of friendship that help people endure through difficult periods in life. My novel explores universal themes like love, betrayal, self-determination, injustice, women's fight for freedom, and the richness of the cultures that make up America. While the story took place one hundred years ago, these themes are as important today as they were then.

Included in this novel are various moral dilemmas, character complexities, and societal issues that are potentially rich for discussion. For example:

- 1. The protagonist grapples with identity vs. cultural acceptance. How do different characters navigate that tension, and what are the societal implications of their choices?
- 2. Eva goes back to Eduardo but leaves him at the end. Why?
- 3. Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion?
- 4. How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you?

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- 5. There are examples of racism, elitism, and misogyny in the story. How are they handled by the characters?
- 6. Did you highlight any words or quotes in the book? If so, which?
- 7. If this book were made into a movie, who would you cast in the leading roles?
- 8. Where has friendship between women been central in other books you have read and in lives you have known, including your own?
- 9. What character did you relate to or dislike?
- 10. If you rated this book on a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the highest, what rating would you give?

I am available to come in for a chat or a Q&A. I can talk about my writing process, my inspiration, or even join in with the group to discuss the questions raised by member or found in my book club guide I love connecting with my readers. Click here to book me for your reading group or event!

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Warm Regards,

Maria J. Andrade, M.F.T./ Author