



WITH ME IN THE STORM

7 Book Club Kit

Faith-Focused Group

Have a great time exploring the characters, themes, and inspiration in this novel based on true stories!

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Invite Karen to speak to your group by Zoom!
Simply send her a note at <https://kareningleauthor.com/contact>

Discussion Questions



1

What kinds of storms do the characters in this book go through?

2

Who stands with Maddie in her storm(s)? How does their support make a difference?

3

Would you say Tanisha succeeds or fails to stand with her friend Maddie? What about Chris? What factors complicate their ability to offer support?

4

What risks and responsibilities do Nick and Flora Dahlgren accept by welcoming Maddie and Lucas into their home? Talk about their work in light of verses like James 1:27 and Heb. 13:2.

5

Human traffickers target individuals who are particularly vulnerable. What made Maddie vulnerable to Zach? Why do you think she stayed with him when he revealed his true intentions?

6

How does Maddie change after hearing the sermon on Luke 7:36-50? Why?

7

Why did Maddie expect “church people” not to welcome her? How can Christians walk the fine line between condoning sin and turning their backs on sinners?

8

Talk about how some of the characters modeled Christ-likeness, as described in Luke 7:36-50, Matt. 9:36, Eph. 5:1-2.

9

Maddie became convinced that “Safe isn’t about what you hold onto. It’s about who holds you.” Talk about why you agree or disagree with this statement.

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If you were to write the next chapter in Maddie and Chris's relationship, what would you write?

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Bible Passages (ESV)

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

"A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Q & A with the author, Karen Ingle

1 What prompted you to write this novel?

As a freelance writer, I have journalistically reported on dozens and dozens of stories coming out of pregnancy centers around the world. But I also wanted to those stories to reach audiences who read fiction. So I knit together pieces of several true stories to make Maddie's story.

2 You set the story in both California and Minnesota in winter. Why?

Frankly, I find it easier to write about states where I have lived. And a Minnesota blizzard with its absolute white-out conditions provokes the same intensity of fear in me as a California earthquake. Both make the world as you know it disappear. These world-rocking events became the perfect forces to introduce suspense in the lives of my characters.

3 How did sex trafficking come to figure in this story?

I found it sobering that part of my training as a pregnancy center employee included learning to recognize and offer help to sex trafficking victims. Maddie's story explores the complex network of helpers that women can be connected with should they dare to escape that life. But the journey out is long and illuminates the kind of love and commitment required to support a woman trying to break free from the manipulation, humiliation, and abuse to which she has grown accustomed.

4 Are Colson County, CA, and Jefferson or Sargent, MN, real places?

I modeled them after real places in different geographical locations. By fictionalizing all settings, I worked to make sure none of the real women whose stories are woven into Maddie's ever feel their confidentiality has been violated. Incidentally, I originally planned to name the pregnancy center Ridgecrest PC, but when an earthquake shook the actual California city of Ridgecrest I renamed the center, even though none of my sources stories happened there.

5 How did you settle on the name "Dos Almas," then?

In Spanish, it means "two souls." It felt like the perfect name for a place where both a woman and her baby are loved.

Icebreakers

Would
you
rather...



Take turns answering these questions: Would you rather--

- drink hot cocoa or coffee on a cold day? Why?
- be in your house in an earthquake or in your car in a blizzard? Explain.
- work alone from home or with colleagues in an office? Why?
- have to do without your car or your house? Explain.

Casting
Call

Imagine With Me in the Storm becoming a movie.
Which actors would you choose to play these
characters?

- Maddie
- Chris
- Tricia
- Paloma
- Zach
- Lena
- Avery
- Officer Pete Sherill
- Dr. "Megamind" Murphy
- Nick and/or Flora Dahlgren

WITH ME IN THE STORM

Meeting Menu Ideas

from
Paloma's
kitchen



Tossed Green Salad

Cornbread (adapted from Good Housekeeping Illustrated Cookbook):

Mix together: 1 c. all-purpose flour, $\frac{3}{4}$ c cornmeal, 2-4 Tbsp sugar, 1 Tbsp double-acting baking powder, and 1 tsp salt.

In a separate small bowl, beat together: 1 egg, $\frac{2}{3}$ c milk, and $\frac{1}{3}$ c vegetable oil. Stir egg mixture into dry ingredients.

Pour batter into greased 8"x8" baking pan and spread evenly to edges.

Bake 20-25 minutes until golden, at 425 degrees. Cut into squares to serve.

Cheese Enchiladas in Red Sauce:

<https://lilluna.com/red-cheese-enchiladas-recipe/>

(See recipe above for additional side dish ideas)

Maddie's
Hot
Cocoa

A recipe from the northern Minnesota kitchen of Jola Johnson:

Mix together in a plastic ice cream pail (or large bowl with cover):

8 c dry milk, $\frac{3}{4}$ c. dry nondairy creamer, $\frac{1}{2}$ c powdered sugar, and 4 c. instant cocoa mix. Store covered.

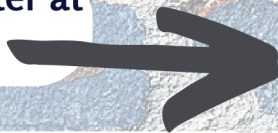
To serve, stir hot water into a mug with $\frac{1}{3}$ c. mix.

**LET'S STAY
IN TOUCH!**

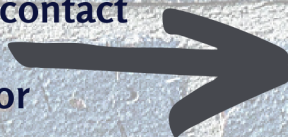


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