



WITH ME IN THE STORM

7 Book Club Kit

General Audience Group

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

Table of Contents

Book Discussion Questions (full color)	2
Book Discussion Questions (B/W)	3
Book Discussion Questions (B/W, no images)	4
Author Q & A	5
Ice Breakers	6
Meeting Menu Ideas	7
Let's Stay in Touch	8

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

WITH ME IN THE STORM

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 committing to welcoming Maddie and Lucas into their home?

5

Human traffickers usually 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

Why did Maddie expect “church people” not to welcome her? Do you think her concerns were reasonable? Why or why not?

7

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.

8

Both Maddie and Dr. “Megamind” Murphy once seized control over their lives in ways they came to regret later. Talk about how they dealt with those regrets.

9

Which of the characters did you relate to most? Please explain.

10

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

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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.

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, 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, 2/3 c milk, and 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 northern Minnesota, from the kitchen of Jola Johnson:

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

8 c dry milk, 3/4 c. dry nondairy creamer, 1/2 c powdered sugar, and 4 c. instant cocoa mix. Store covered.

To serve, stir hot water into a mug with 1/3 c. mix.

Ice Breakers

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?

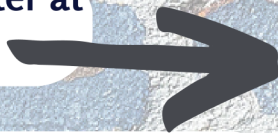
- Maddie
- Chris
- Tricia
- Paloma
- Zach
- Lena
- Avery
- Officer Pete Sherill
- Dr. "Megamind" Murphy
- Nick and/or Flora Dahlgren

**LET'S STAY
IN TOUCH!**



Thanks for reading
With Me in the Storm

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and to receive her free short stories,
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<https://kareningleauthor.com>



Invite Karen to speak to your group by Zoom!
Simply send her a note at
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