



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your initial reaction to *A Thousand Mothers*? Did it hook you immediately or take some time to get into? What feelings did the book evoke for you?
2. What if anything set this novel apart from other books you've read in this genre? What do you think you'll remember about it many months from now?
3. Which characters did you like the best? Which characters did you like the least?
4. What did you already know about the Holocaust before you read the book? Did you learn something you didn't know before?
5. Did *A Thousand Mothers* give you a better understanding of life in a concentration camp? Were you aware of Ravensbrück before you read the book?
6. The brutality of Ravensbrück forced many prisoners to become resourceful in unimaginable ways. Which character's action shocked you the most?
7. How did the women at Ravensbrück show their resistance to the Nazis? Which instances struck you as the most powerful?
8. The female guards at Ravensbrück and the Siemens' factory often treated the prisoners worse than their male counterparts. Why do you think this was true?
9. Discuss the dangerous risks that Helene and the other women took to protect Flora. How did you judge the characters and the choices they made?
10. Judit killed Dr. Meyer and was haunted by what she did for the rest of her life, so much that she never practiced medicine again. Do you think she was justified in killing the doctor? Did you have any sympathy for Dr. Meyer when Judit killed him?

11. The prisoners could hold a Christmas party for the children in the camp in 1944. Why do you think the Nazis allowed it? Why this Christmas?

12. After liberation, Helene was told to forget about Ravensbrück and move on with her life. Do you think this was good advice?

13. Do you agree with Evan and Charlotte's decision to not tell Flora about the circumstances of her adoption? Should they have answered Helene's letters?

14. The idea of bravery and courage is at the heart of A Thousand Mothers. Were Helene and Mattie brave for returning to Ravensbrück and Auschwitz to face their fears and put ghosts to rest?

15. How did you feel about the ending? Who would you have like to learn more about?