



The Daughter Who Walked Away

A Novel by Kimia Eslah

Book Club Conversation Starters

Overview

This novel explores the cascading effects of trauma on the mother-child relationship across three generations of one family, beginning in early twentieth-century Iran and ending in modern-day Canada. There is the stringent Batoul, her determined daughter Mojegan, and her defiant granddaughter Taraneh. This novel explores how a woman, traumatized and suffering in silence, might approach motherhood differently.

Discuss issues that matter!

- Cycles of trauma
- Stigma of mental illness
- Dynamics of toxic relationships
- Personal boundary setting
- Social isolation within families

Conversation starters

- How does the experience of motherhood differ between the women?
- How did trauma affect each mother's perception of her children?
- What tactics did each mother employ to manage the difficulties she faced?
- How does each woman fulfill her needs? What is the fallout?
- How does Taraneh end the cycle of trauma in her life?
- Which relationships were toxic? And, what was toxic about these relationships?
- How did Mojegan react to Taraneh's setting of personal boundaries?

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