

Book Club Questions for "A Stolen Wife"

1. "A Stolen Wife" offers a fictionalized account of the life of Bathsheba, wife of King David, from the Book of 2 Samuel. How does the novel expand upon Bathsheba's character and experiences beyond what is written in the biblical narrative?
2. Jenifer Jennings portrays Bathsheba as a woman of resilience, strength, and complexity in "A Stolen Wife." How does Bathsheba's character defy traditional stereotypes and expectations for women in ancient times, and what qualities make her a compelling protagonist?
3. The novel delves into Bathsheba's backstory and the circumstances surrounding her relationship with King David. How does the novel explore the complexities of Bathsheba's life before and after her marriage to David, and how do her experiences shape her identity and choices?
4. "A Stolen Wife" explores themes of power, privilege, and consent as Bathsheba navigates her relationship with King David. How does the novel depict Bathsheba's agency and autonomy in the face of David's authority, and what insights can we gain from her perspective?
5. The character of King David plays a significant role in Bathsheba's story, particularly as her husband and the king of Israel. How does the novel portray Bathsheba's interactions with David, and what insights can we gain from their relationship as spouses and rulers?
6. Jenifer Jennings incorporates elements of historical research and cultural context into "A Stolen Wife," offering insights into ancient Israelite society and the challenges faced by women like Bathsheba. What details or descriptions from the novel helped you visualize the historical setting, and how did they enhance your reading experience?
7. Bathsheba encounters various trials and tribulations throughout the novel, from her forced marriage to David to the loss of her first child. How does Bathsheba demonstrate resilience and determination in the face of adversity, and what moments in the novel highlight her strength?
8. The theme of forgiveness and redemption is prevalent in "A Stolen Wife," as Bathsheba grapples with the aftermath of David's betrayal and their shared guilt. How does Bathsheba's journey of forgiveness and healing unfold throughout the novel, and what lessons can readers draw from her experiences?
9. Bathsheba's role as a mother and queen is central to the biblical narrative, and "A Stolen Wife" delves into her legacy and impact on future generations. How does Bathsheba's influence shape the course of history, and what lessons can we learn from her example as a woman of faith and resilience?
10. In what ways does "A Stolen Wife" resonate with contemporary issues and experiences, despite being set in ancient times? Discuss how the themes of power dynamics, forgiveness, and redemption portrayed in the novel offer timeless lessons for readers today and reflect universal aspects of the human condition.