

Discussion Questions



FANATIC SURVIVING

Dove Strong Trilogy #2

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ISBN (e): [9781522302179](#)

ISBN (tp): 9781522302292

Imprint: Watershed Books

Publisher: [Pelican Book Group](#)

Pages: 254

eBook SRP: 5.99

Also Available in Paperback:

About the Book

The start of The Reclaim is imminent, and sixteen-year-old Dove Strong can't do a thing to stop it... or can she? With only weeks until her people attack the unsuspecting nonbelievers, Dove accepts her recommission for peace. But then she runs into an old nemesis.

When a member of her family dies, she is arrested as a terrorist and prime murder suspect. Dove's punishment? She must survive the unforgiving Chihuahuan Desert under the judging eye of every television-owning nonbeliever in the country.

Saddled with a hostile camera crew, Dove fights to reach civilization while enduring Satan's elements and a mysterious Amhebran coder who haunts her steps. Dove is strong. But is her faith strong enough to survive a friend's betrayal or the ultimate decision ... whether to sacrifice a family member to stop the attack?

TITLE: Fanatic Surviving

Discussion:

Question 1: Explain Dove's feelings of wanting to hide as well as her reluctance to leave her home at the beginning of Fanatic Surviving?

Answer 1: Dove hides on her grandpa's lookout platform because she is uncomfortable when her family members discuss her unexpected friendship with two nonbelievers, Wolfe and Jezebel Pickett. She is reluctant to leave her Ochoco home because her recent failure of her last journey haunts her. She is also anxious to enter Enemy territory because she recognizes she is drawn to the people living there. She wonders if she'll become like her Uncle Saul and never return home. This thought scares her.

Question 2: Dove's mom warns her about being 'equally yoked' in a relationship. What does that mean and do you agree that being equally yoked is important? Explain your view.

Answer 2: Being equally yoked means entering into a close relationship with another who is not at the same level emotionally or spiritually as you. Being 'yoked' or connected with this other person gives him or her the chance to influence the way you think, talk, or act. It is important for a believer to be equally yoked so he or she isn't influenced to walk away from God.

Question 3: How do Lobo's feelings toward Dove change throughout their journey?

Answer 3: Lobo begins his journey without empathy or compassion for Dove. He continues to distrust her but becomes more curious as she weathers out the locust swarm and strides mile after mile without any obvious source of water. When Dove shields him and Jessica from the wildfire and points out her God's power, Lobo is intrigued. He begins to trust and listen. In the abandoned church, he realizes he cares about Dove and wants her to succeed... so much so that he tackles a gunman so she can escape.

Question 4: List the physical struggles that Dove Strong faces in the Chihuahuan Desert?

Answer 4: Dove Strong's physical struggles in the Chihuahuan Desert are the following: Exposure, dehydration, mental incapacitation, and fatigue from lack of food exertion. Attacking forces come in the form of: A swarm of locusts, a flashflood, a pursuing wildfire with suffocating smoke, rattlesnakes, poisoned water, a crazed wildcat, Melody and Stone, and a gunman.

Question 5: Why does Dove stay to shield Jessica and Lobo from the wildfire on the cliff, even if it means her own death?

Answer 5: As Dove is about to outclimb the fire, she realizes that she is the only person who has accepted salvation. This meant she is the only person who is ready to die and meet God. She hopes by shielding the others, she can buy them a bit more time on earth before they begin their eternities apart from God.

Question 6: How does Melody Brae betray Dove in the desert? What excuses does Melody later give?

Answer 6: Melody betrays Dove when she chooses to help Reed Bender stop Dove from delivering her message to Rahab's Roof in Portland. She attempts to stop Dove by giving her a canteen of water that will make her sleep and unable to finish her mission. Later Melody assists Stone in sprinkling Dove with a type of cougar catnip that invites the wildcat to attack her. Lastly, Melody helps steal and conceal Dove's message. Melody's excuses are that Dove abandoned her in the woods and Reed came to her rescue. Reed would only forgive Melody's mistake for leaving him if she helped him stop Dove. She repeats Reed's false statement that God wants Dove stopped.

Question 7: Write out any advice you would give Stone Bender.

Answer 7: Stone, please listen to Dove. Stop following your brother's lead and ask God yourself what to do. You hate violence and hurting others. Listen to the Holy Spirit and quit plotting for the Reclaim. Use your time instead to invest in teaching the unsaved about Jesus and salvation.

Question 8: At what point did Dove decide she would sacrifice Gilead's future in order to deliver her message to Rahab's Roof?

Answer 8: When Dove loses her message, she realizes how important her mission is. Later when she retrieves her message and time is running out, she had to decide which is most important—her brother's life or delivering the message, which would help hundreds of others. She remembers her dream and knows she has to obey God.

Question 9: Jessica shows up at the Pickett's home to speak with Dove. What possible thinking motivated her to reconnect with Dove?

Answer 9: When Dove questions Jezebel about Jessica's appearance, the little girl answers, "Well, you do weird stuff and talk about God a lot. It's pretty hilarious and not boring. You have answers to things that no one else does. I'm always like, 'What's Dove gonna say next?' Maybe she wants to find out too?" Dove believes Jessica has followed Dove to Oregon in order to satisfy her curiosity about God.

Question 10: Explain why Gilead is agreeable to become a 'Sent' Christian and live in Sisters?

Answer 10: Gilead believes that the Spiritual Reclaim is doomed to failure and will end in war. He volunteers to relocate to Sisters, not only to protect his sister and cousin, but to spy on his enemies so he can defeat them later on.

