

Discussion Questions



SENT RISING

Dove Strong Trilogy #3

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About the Book

No more hiding. This has become Dove Strong's motto. But then her worst nightmare comes true. Her family disappears from their secluded tree home, and they're not the only Christians in the nation who've been snatched. All clues about the numerous disappearances point to nonbelievers...and the remaining believers are not happy.

While Dove and her cousin, Trinity, hunt for the missing Christians, Dove stumbles upon a secret plan to force the Reclaim. Already, vengeful Christians gather in local camps to train for battle, and Dove's brother is one of the bloodthirsty.

Will Dove have the strength to rise up, put a stop to this war, and save her family before a red stain covers the nation?

TITLE: Sent Rising

Discussion:

Question 1: Explain how Trinity Strong changes from the beginning of her journey to the end. You may address physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual changes.

Answer 1: Trinity Strong changes physically in that she wears traditional Christians clothes and later adopts a style with short sleeves and a hair braid that she wears down. She changes mentally and emotionally when she loses her fear of walking among nonbelievers. She also changes mentally and spiritually when she realizes and accepts that her gift from God is more than recognizing the potential beauty in others. She sees her gift is recognizing God himself and His will for her life.

Question 2: Stone Bender makes a final decision to assist Dove in destroying his brother's power source. Why do you think he chooses to go against his brother? Support your guess with clues that you see in Stone before that moment of assist.

Answer 2: Stone makes the decision to go against his brother at the end of Sent Rising because he is weary of causing others to suffer. He hates violence and hurting others, and his brother, Reed, commands him to do despicable acts against people again and again. When Stone sees Dove's look-alike cousin, Trinity, fall lethally, he is jarred and realizes he can't hurt Dove or deny her truths about nonviolence anymore. Some clues in the story are Stone repeating that he won't hurt Dove, his questioning Reed's plan in the cave, and Stone's haggard appearance on the golf course that shows he is ill over the situation.

Question 3: Do you believe Wolfe Pickett becomes a true Christian, or do you believe he pretends in order to please Dove? Explain your reasoning.

Answer 3: Wolfe Pickett becomes a true Christian and is not pretending in order to please Dove. The evidence is that he is raptured alongside the rest of the true Christians. Other hints of his growing relationship with God would be his claim that he acquired a Bible and has been reading it. He also speaks of salvation to Lobo. Earlier he reveals his knowledge of the Ten Commandments, the Armor of God, and the song Jesus Loves Me.

Question 4: Dove reunites with Melody Brae on the Californian beach. Discuss whether or not there was anything Dove could say or do to persuade Melody to be brave and ditch Reed.

Answer 4: I don't believe Dove could have persuaded Melody to leave Reed. Melody had to decide herself. I believe Dove's kindness in guiding her over the rocks, despite Melody's betrayal, helped Melody realize on the final night that Dove was not only telling the truth about what God's will, but that Dove was her true friend. At that point, Melody gained the courage to leave Reed and join Dove.

Question 5: Why does Dove become emotional when Lobo interviews her?

Answer 5: Dove's heart is breaking for the people who don't have salvation and who will spend their eternities in Hell.

Question 6: Dove doesn't have many belongings, but she is not upset when her temporary home and all her possessions in the cow pasture burn up. Which belonging would you most miss if your home and your possessions were destroyed? Why?

Answer 6: Answers will vary. Hopefully, whatever object we miss the most, we realize that object has the potential of being an idol in our lives, which is not okay. An idol is any person or thing that we love more than God.

Question 7: At the end of Sent Rising, Dove finally understands what the true red color of her dreams represents. Explain what she found the red to actually mean.

Answer 7: The symbolic color wasn't from an earthly bloodbath or a war. It was Jesus's blood. The red meant His perfect blood He'd already shed in order to cover us sinful humans with his righteousness. His blood is the only source of eternal life.

Question 8: Dove shouts at the Christians in the camps that they are sinning and to stop wasting their time physically training for the Reclaim. What would have been another effective way to convince Christians?

Answer 8: Answers will vary. Dove could have asked other prayer warriors to speak out at the camps so she wasn't alone in her mission. She might have been more effective spreading her message. Dove also could have delivered her message without insulting her listeners. Calling people names such as liars, sinners, or fools causes them to feel defensive, and they less likely to consider a change.

Question 9: Which character in Sent Rising do you feel you identify with most and why?

Answer 9 Answers will vary. Dove might be an example of someone who feels isolated from others because of beliefs or lack of social skills. Someone might identify with Trinity because she is artistic. A worrier might identify with Chaff, while someone who is unconfident and apologizes frequently might understand Melody's outlook. A confident speaker would feel akin to Rebecca. Wolfe faces life and his problems with humor.

Question 10: Did the final chapter of Sent Rising surprise you? Read Acts 2:17-21. Then list some clues from the sky and the state of the earth that point to the possible end times in Sent Rising.

Answer 10: Some clues from the sky, pointing to it being the end times, are the red moon, darker sun, and constant meteors and changes in the stars. Clues from the state of the earth include famine, war, blood, fire, and smoke. The verses in Acts point to God pouring out His Spirit on his people, resulting in spiritual gifts.

