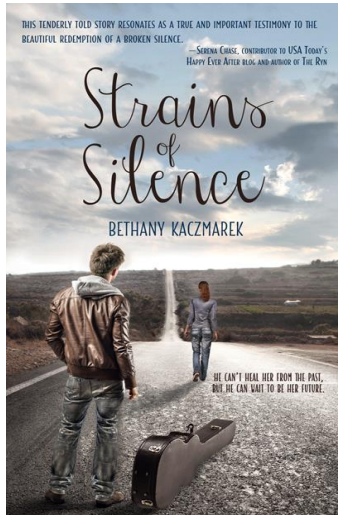


Discussion Questions



Also Available in Paperback:

STRAINS OF SILENCE

Author: Bethany Kaczmarek

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About the Book

Music was her driving passion and the truest expression of her faith, but three months before her wedding, twenty-year-old Kasia Bernolak can't even pick up her guitar. Feeling like a fraud who will ruin her dad's pastoral reputation, she can barely meet his eyes. When Kasia finds the strength to break off her engagement, she still doesn't realize the dangerous truth: Blake Hamilton isn't ready to say goodbye. And he'll do whatever it takes to keep her.

Alexander "Zan" Maddox has seen what a domineering man can do to an unsuspecting woman, and Zan is sick of injustice. He gave up a college baseball scholarship so he could protect his sister from her abusive husband. When he rescues Kasia from her ex-fiancé, he instinctively appoints himself her personal bodyguard. Now, all he has to do is keep from falling for her himself.

Kasia and Zan become fast friends, but true healing and justice might cost more than either of them is willing to pay.

TITLE: Strains of Silence

Discussion:

Question 1: How did Kasia tell Busia she felt about her upcoming wedding? Have you ever felt like that about something? What did you do?

Answer 1: Like the train is racing ahead and the bridge is out.

Question 2: What does Busia suggest she do to find herself again? What do you think of that plan?

Answer 2: Do a mission trip or ministry project—serve others.

Question 3: Focusing on others' happiness above your own can be beautiful, but if you're always the one to give in, it can be a red flag in your relationships. Where did you see that in Kasia's life? Do you see it in your own?

Answer 3: Kissing Blake to distract him, having sex to keep him satisfied and happy.

Question 4: As Kasia broke up with Blake, she thought, "If God would let her lay this on Him, she could make a clean break..." Do you think God minds taking the blame?

Answer 4:

Question 5: Have you ever tried explaining a decision you'd made to someone who didn't share your convictions? How did it go?

Answer 5:

Question 6: Have you ever felt like you've made too many mistakes to be forgiven?

Answer 6:

Question 7: Why does Zan say he doesn't trust Christians? What do you think of his reasoning?

Answer 7: He's partied with too many Christians to trust them. They're fake.

Question 8: According to Bailey, what is the point of forgiveness? Can you think of any other reasons it's important?

Answer 8: To let go of the hurt and bitterness. It's a burden that shouldn't be ours to carry. It's one of the ways to keep past wounds from inflicting more damage.

Question 9: Think about what Zan sees and thinks in court following his sister's assault. What do you think is his most important realization in that scene?

Answer 9

Question 10: There are a lot of people in Kasia's life who support her and encourage her. Who do you see as the hero of the story?

Answer 10:

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