

Discussion Questions



RANSOMED TRUST

Ransom Oaks Ranch

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About the Book

Lucy Kramer needs to get away for a few days. As if the stress of her mother's decline into dementia isn't enough, now a neighbor seems to be stalking her. The Ransom Oaks Ranch offers room to breathe and think, and Brandon Tennent's quiet, sensitive nature draws her in almost immediately.

But Brandon's past mirrors all too closely that of Lucy's alcoholic father, and while his feelings for Lucy are strong, he knows she could never trust him completely. No one can.

When her stalker's attentions take a sinister turn, can Brandon prove to Lucy and to himself that he's not as unworthy as he believes?

TITLE: Ransomed Trust

Discussion:

Question 1: In chapter one, Brandon senses that Lucy needs to control something about her situation. Why might she feel this way?

Answer 1: Lucy might feel a need for control based on her experience with her father, whose out of control behavior devastated her life. She also feels the need for control because the man stalking her has taken control of her current circumstance.

Question 2: In what ways can Brandon relate to Lucy's need for control?

Answer 2: Brandon can relate to this need because his own addiction has had complete control of his behavior.

Question 3: Throughout the story, Brandon feels as if he must earn the trust of Ashley and Manuel. Why does he feel this way?

Answer 3: Brandon has spent most of his life letting people down--from not being "the son his father had hoped for," to being the addict that lost the family ranch. He's never been trustworthy, and so now he must work to earn the trust his sister and brother-in-law give freely.

Question 4: 1 Corinthians 13:7 tells us that love always trusts. Are there any circumstances in which we, as Christians, would be justified in withholding trust from other brothers or sisters in Christ? Why or why not?

Answer 4: It's natural for us to want to withhold trust from those who have proven themselves untrustworthy. We don't want to knowingly expose ourselves to further injury. But opening ourselves to repeated injury is what Jesus talked about when he spoke of turning the other cheek. At some point, we have to be willing to risk injury in order to extend the love of Christ.

