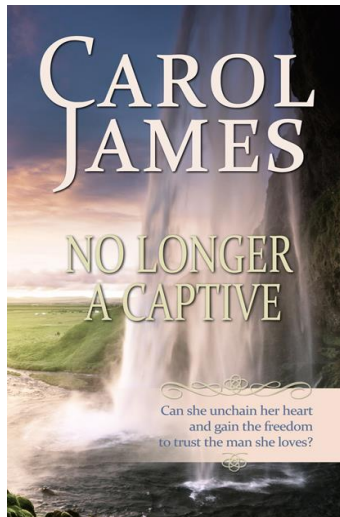


Discussion Questions



NO LONGER A CAPTIVE

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About the Book

When Ethne O'Connor's brother tells her of father's unexpected death, Sean asks her to do something she promised herself she'd never do. Come back home.

A victim of childhood abuse, Ethne left her father and the small Texas town of Crescent Bluff ten years ago on the night of her high school graduation. She's determined to end the cycle of abuse and believes the only way to do that is remain single. If she has no husband, she'll never have children that can be abused.

Then she meets Daniel Spenser, a handsome doctor with chocolate-kiss eyes. Daniel understands her past in a way no one else does. He's lived it.

Will Daniel be able to help Ethne break the chains of captivity around her heart?

And will God release her from her past, to be free to trust the man she comes to love?

TITLE: No Longer a Captive
Discussion:

Question 1: Why did Daniel become a doctor?

Answer 1: Daniel's adoptive father was a doctor, and Daniel wanted to honor him by following in his footsteps.

Question 2: Why has Ethne decided she will never marry?

Answer 2: Ethne's father abused her when she was a child, and he cheated on her mother. She will not allow herself or her children to be treated in this manner. She believes the only way to break these cycles is for her to never marry.

Question 3: What does the waterfall symbolize, and why is jumping into it important to the story?

Answer 3: The waterfall symbolizes God's love and forgiveness. Jumping through it symbolizes Ethne's decision to trust God. It is an external picture of an inner experience.

Question 4: What is the importance of the closet in Daniel's apartment?

Answer 4: The closet symbolizes mankind's struggle to hide and hold on to our failures and shortcomings rather than give them to God.

Question 5: What are Ethne's two favorite flowers, and why does she like them? Do you think they symbolize her?

Answer 5: Her two favorite flowers are daisies and zinnias because her mother always said they were hardy and resilient.

Question 6: What holds Daniel captive? What holds Ethne captive?

Answer 6: Struggling to trust God with his fear of not having his needs met. Her desire to keep her family's good reputation in the community and her inability to trust God and forgive her father.

Question 7: When Ethne argues that forgiving people is useless because she's tried and it didn't change their behavior, what is Daniel's response?

Answer 7: "Your forgiveness changes you, not anyone else. Only God's forgiveness can do that."

Question 8: What three things does Daniel count as God's provision and answered prayer?

Answer 8: His being given the practice, meeting Ethne, and being able to serve in a free clinic.

Question 9: To dedicate the clinic and the apartment to God, Daniel writes Bible verses on the walls.

Answer 9 Have you ever done this? If not, would you?

Question 10: To what physical thing does Daniel equate being trapped by the inability to forgive?

Answer 10: A prison.

