

Darkness Calls the Tiger

Book Club Discussion

1. Several times throughout the book, Kailyn sees herself reflected by the comments of others as well as in water. How does she see herself and how does it change throughout the book? How do other's opinions about Kai affect how she reacts to hardships? What do you think contributes to her change?
2. The book discusses the nature of revenge and forgiveness. How does Kai's view of revenge and forgiveness change throughout the book? Would you have been able to forgive Utagawa?
3. Kai spends almost the entire book searching for a home where she can remain. Kai reminds Ryan of home. And Kai learns that home isn't a place or a person. Where is home for you?
4. Ryan often feels useless and without the power to protect those he cares for. How is his insecurity a weakness? How is it a strength? How is his desire to control the outcome helpful to others? How does it harm them?
5. John gives Kailyn a set of choices: Anger or trust. Revenge or love. Do you agree with those options? How do you see Kai, Ryan, and Utagawa playing out those choices?
6. The China-Burma-India Theater is known as the Forgotten War. Had you heard of the theater before? Why do you think so few know about it.

Cool Historical Facts

- Burma became known as Myanmar in 1989.
- The Burma theater is widely regarded as a primary origin of the U.S. Army Special Forces (the Green Berets).
- The mountain people were open to Allied recruitment because missionaries from Ireland (notably Father Stuart) and the United States had lived among the people for generations. Adoniram Judson (who's from Massachusetts) is one of the most famous of the missionaries from the States.
- WWII Pacific theater actually started in 1937 with the 2nd Sino-Japanese war.
- China was allied with the West until after WWII when the widespread corruption of the government led to a communist revolution.
- On January 14, 1948, the United Kingdom officially granted independence to Burma. The government was, ironically, run by General Aung San, who had originally sided with the Japanese. After WWII, Burma fairly quickly became a closed communist country.

- The vast majority of Americans in the CBI were engineers building the Ledo Road from India, through Burma, and into China. It was an attempt to keep China supplied since the Japanese controlled the coastline of China.
- Before WWII Burma was the number one exporter of rice.
- Currently Myanmar is home to approximately 135 ethnic groups, making it more diverse than the U.S. But the Bamar people make up 70% of the population.
- Built by mostly black American and Chinese engineers, the Burma Road (also known as Ledo Road or Stilwell Road) is one of the largest engineering feats of WWII. The road snaked more than a thousand miles from Ledo, India, through the Himalayan mountains of Burma and into China. The road combined with the airlifts were key to keeping China supplied throughout the war.
- Early in the war, the largest contingent of Americans soldiers were the black engineers working on the road. The second largest group were Office of Strategic Services officers. OSS was the precursor to the CIA. The officers were parachuted into the mountains to recruit locals for the war effort.