

## *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 others' 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

- 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 Texas had lived among the people for generations.
- WWII Pacific theater actually started in 1937 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- The vast majority of Americans in the CBI were engineers building the Ledo Road (see below) from India, through Burma, and into China. It was an attempt to keep China supplied since the Japanese controlled the coastline of China.
- The Ledo Road (later named The Stillwell Road) is the largest engineering feat of WWII. Keeping China in the war was critical to the defeat of Imperial Japan. Unfortunately all of China's ports were cut off and the only help could come from India. But the Himalayan Mountains created a massive problem for airlifts. So Allied engineers and construction units (almost all of them Black Americans, Chinese, and local workers) Planned and built a narrow road, snaking more than a thousand miles through the mountains.
- 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.