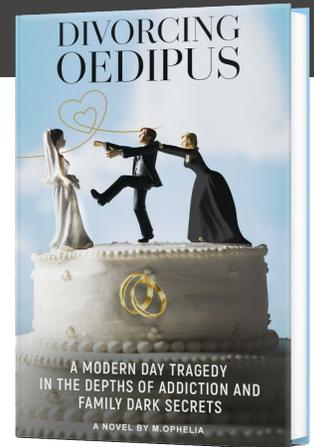


M. OPHELIA



SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- Mental Health – Coping with codependency, loving an addicted person, acknowledging generational abuse, surviving narcissistic people recognizing the illusion and the destructive nature of materialism and the separation it causes between people and reality . Materialism is a disease.
- Women's Issues – How being a stay-at-home mom in a patriarchal society may make you subservient and vulnerable to financial abuse—living through a divorce with children and dealing with abandonment issues.
- Making Lemonade out of Lemons – Consciously, choosing to keep your courage and stay positive during challenging times. Putting God first place by believing in God's promise for your life over people's expectations. Striving to live each day with a heart of service rooted in humility, gratitude, grace and self-love.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What are the signs that indicate that a person may be in a codependent relationship? When does Faith realize that she is codependent, and how does she use this knowledge to establish boundaries?
- You say in the book that some people don't want to get sober. For some, do you believe addiction is a disease or a lifestyle choice?
- You do not have a degree in mental health counseling, so why do you think you have the authority to discuss these topics? Do you feel that the stigma attached to mental health issues prevents Trey and Phyllis from seeking help?
- Did Phyllis's wealth and worldly obsessions help her recreate reality and intimidate other people from questioning her stories? How does this personality trait affect the power dynamic in her family? Do you think this micro-familial situation is actually macro-familial?
- Do patriarchal societies still exist in the American household? How does Faith avoid being a victim of severe financial abuse? Why are caretakers undervalued in society?
- "The Love Triangle" chapter deals with generational abuse. When Faith realizes that Maggie has been exposed to Trey's affair and sworn to secrecy and that as a child, Trey was exposed to Phyllis's affair and sworn to secrecy, does this revelation cause Faith to realize that Trey is a victim, as well? Do you believe that generational abuse is a subconscious, systemic problem in society?
- What character traits does Faith have that help her to outmaneuver Phyllis's and Trey's machinations to control her? Since the "survival of the fittest" theme runs through this book. How does your worldview influence this theme?
- How is Faith influenced by Tina, Aunt Denali, and Vita as opposed to Phyllis? Explain how these women support Faith in finding her voice and power? Does a secret sisterhood of spiritually evolved women exist, and are they slowly changing the social stratosphere?
- Why did you decide to write this book, and who was the audience that you had in mind when you wrote it?
- What are the lessons and/or messages that you hope people take away from *Divorcing Oedipus*? What is your biggest wish for this book?
- *Divorcing Oedipus* ends on a pretty big cliffhanger. Are you considering writing a sequel?