



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Waltraud: A True Story of Growing Up in Nazi Germany

By Tammy Borden

Thank you for reading my mother's story. Use these questions as part of your book club discussion. Did you know I've visited nearly 100 book clubs—both in person or virtually? Contact me for details if interested in having me join you.

How does Waltraud's experience during World War II differ from other narratives and perspectives you've read from that period? What new insights does her story provide?

What role does fear play in Waltraud's story and that of her family? How do they learn to navigate and survive in a world filled with uncertainty, danger, and suspicion of others around them?

Are there lessons we can take from Waltraud's experiences that are relevant in modern society?

Not all heroes show up in fanfare. In fact, most don't. Discuss Waltraud's involvement in subverting the Nazis in both big and small ways. What lessons can we take away from her courage, and in what ways can we be courageous in our everyday lives?

What part of the story did you find most surprising, touching, frightening, humorous, or hopeful?

After the war, Waltraud faces the task of rebuilding her life. What about post-war Germany did you find most intriguing or surprising? Have you read stories about the hardships after World War II?

Waltraud's mother becomes hardened by war and loss. Why? Do you have empathy for her despite the chasm that formed between her and Waltraud?

Waltraud had a special bond with her father, but her memories of him are from her childhood. How might their relationship have changed during her adolescent and young adult years had he lived?

While many Germans followed Nazi ideologies, Waltraud's story represents others who did not. How do we as humans tend to put entire people groups in a box (e.g., "All Germans were Nazis"), and how can we combat that mindset to see that good people can be caught up in circumstances they cannot control?

What is the foundation of Waltraud's strength and moral compass before, during, and after the war?

Each chapter of Waltraud is based on actual events and stories relayed to her daughter, Tammy. Reflect on the importance of sharing your own story and personal histories from your family.

Did you enjoy my mother's story? Please write a review on Amazon and Goodreads, and share with friends.