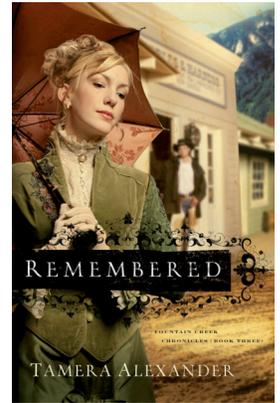


REMEMBERED

Reading Group Guide

FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 3

By Tamera Alexander



Warning! The discussion questions contain “spoilers.” So if you haven’t read or finished reading the book yet, these will ruin a few plot surprises. Also, you don’t have to use every question in your group discussion. Pick and choose, or add one of your own.

A note from Tamera:

Dear friends,

I’m honored you’ve chosen *Remembered* as your reading group selection, and I hope you enjoyed Jack and Véronique’s story. Christ drew me closer to Him as I wrote this story, and my prayer is that somewhere along the way as you read, you took a step closer to Him too.

I’d love to join your group discussion! If you’re interested, email me at tameraalexander@ymail.com and inquire about Virtual Book Club Meetings. I’ll also send you a Book Club Packet with goodies to distribute to your group.

Thanks again, and I hope our paths cross again soon,
Tamera

1. In the prologue, we are introduced to a new character to the Fountain Creek Chronicles series, Véronique Eveline Girard from Paris, France. Véronique’s life is turned upside down by her mother’s last request. What is that request? What is her reaction to it? Has your life ever been “turned upside down” by a request made from someone who knew what they were asking, even though you didn’t understand it at time? Did God make it clear what the purpose was? (Because sometimes we find the answer on this side of eternity, and sometimes we don’t.)

2. For thirteen springs, Jack Brennan revisited a certain spot on the Oregon Trail. Why? What was the purpose of his final visit in Ch. 2 of *Remembered*? What was the significance of this event in his life? Have you ever experienced this type of “turning point” in your life where you said goodbye to someone or something and purposefully moved on with your life? How did God meet you in that moment?

3. In Ch. 2, we learn that Véronique is afraid of heights. Yet she’s determined to overcome

that fear (pg. 38). Do you share her fear? Or do you have another fear that others might consider “silly” but that’s very real to you?

4. On pg. 68 (Ch. 6), Jack catches Véronique at an inopportune time, so to speak. What about that scene was most enjoyable or humorous to you?

5. On pg. 75, Véronique is told, “...And for the record, just because you’re capable of doing something, ma’am—like listing this advertisement—doesn’t necessarily mean you should.” What did she learn from that incident? Have you ever found this statement to be true in your own life? And if yes, what was the thing you were capable of doing but shouldn’t necessarily have done?

6. Véronique is a fan of John Donne’s poetry (John Donne was a real historical figure), specifically his “Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions.” Have you ever read any of these devotions? What significance did the portion of the selection at the bottom of pg. 93 have in Véronique’s life? What significance does it have in yours?

7. On pg. 97, Véronique takes another step to locate her father. What repercussions did this step have for her? Have you ever sought someone out, perhaps a birth mother or father? Or a brother or sister you just now found out was living? What did your search yield?

8. On pg. 121, Jack Brennan meets Miss Maudie (from *Rekindled* and *Revealed*). What is the situation that has occurred and what are some character traits that we learn about Jack from this setting? And about Miss Maudie? Have you ever had an “older person” in your life with whom you shared a special connection?

9. On pg. 129, Jack tells Véronique in no uncertain terms that she won’t be accompanying him to the mining town that day. Their discussion centers around the term “modesty.” What does Jack say about her dress (pg. 130) and what do you think about his assessment? Especially from the male point of view? Is he right? Or is he mistaken?

10. On pg. 144, Véronique surprises Jack (and herself) by taking action! What does she do and how do you think this reflects on her inner character? Have you ever acted impulsively, with the best intentions of course, only to realize you’d acted rashly and without thought?

11. On pg. 153, we meet a familiar character who has made appearances in all three Fountain Creek Chronicles novels. Who is it and what were Véronique’s impressions of this character? What are your impressions of him? How do outward appearances cause us to misjudge people today?

12. Véronique and Lilly Carlson share a special relationship in *Remembered*, and Véronique is quick to come to Lilly’s aid when she discovers the girl is having a struggle. What is that struggle (pg. 162) and how did the course of Véronique’s “helping” evolve over the novel? What were the repercussions of Véronique’s offer? What does she conclude at the end (however well meant her intentions, see pg. 323)? Have you experienced this type of hindsight in your own life?

13. On pg. 171, Jack and Véronique had a “discussion” about the attraction between a man and a woman. What was the “object lesson” Jack used to help her understand the physical desires he struggled with? What was the outcome of that lesson?

14. On pg. 201, Jack seeks to buy the land he’s been looking at. At what point in the novel did you realize who the owner of that land was? What was your reaction? How did this man’s actions (his kindness) affect Larson and Kathryn Jennings in *Rekindled*?

15. Jack pays homage to a man in Ch. 24 (pg. 215). Who is it, and what had this man done for him? Who are these people in your life (that paved the way for you to be where you are now, but who are no longer living)?

16. Véronique experiences a special “remembrance” of her mother on pg. 240. What did you think about this experience she had? And have you ever shared anything similar?

17. At the end of Ch. 28 (pg. 250) we learn about an important event in Jack’s life. What was this event (more details are given later on pg. 307)? And how did it affect him years later? Is there a particular incident in your past that has had a profound influence on how you view life? If it was a negative experience, what have you done to consciously work through the aftermath, and have you asked God to help you?

18. Jack gives a gift to Vernie (pg. 287). What is this gift? Scent is a powerful reminder. What are certain smells that “take you back” to certain moments in your life? And did you know that this lotion is still made today, and is available through Bath and Body Works!?

19. Jack and Véronique met someone on one of their mining treks (pg. 294) that was a familiar character from *Rekindled*. Who was it and when did you realize who it was?

20. A twist comes near the end of *Remembered* when Véronique reads a letter written to her (pg. 318-320). Who wrote this letter and how did it change Véronique’s view of her father? How did Jack try to help her view this new information? Have you ever held a preconceived idea about someone only to later learn information that proved that opinion invalid?

21. What are your thoughts on the final scene before the epilogue (pg. 372)? What was going through your mind as Véronique was staring at that picture of “her bridge” in Paris?

22. And finally, what was your favorite scene in *Remembered*? Who was your favorite character, and why do you think this character spoke to you the way that they did?

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Recipe Idea for *Remembered* Group Gatherings

Veronique's French Puff Pastry

3 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1 cup plain bleached **CAKE** flour
6 ½ sticks chilled unsalted butter
1 ½ teaspoons salt
1 cup ice water

Place the flour in your mixing bowl. Rapidly cut the sticks of chilled butter into lengthwise quarters, then into 1/2-inch dice; add to the flour. Add the salt. Blend flour and butter together rapidly, the butter should be roughly broken up but stay in lumps about the size of large lima beans. Blend in the water, mixing just enough so that the dough masses roughly together but the butter pieces remain about the same size. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured work surface. Rapidly push and pat and roll it out into a 12 x 18 inches rectangle. It will look messy. That's fine. If Véronique can live with it, so can you!

Lightly flour top of dough and, with a pastry sheet to help you, flip the bottom of the rectangle up over the middle, and then flip the top down to cover it, as though folding a business letter. Lift the dough off the work surface with a pastry sheet; scrape the work surface clean, flour the surface lightly and return the dough to it, settling it down in front of you so that the top flap is at your right. Lightly flour top of the dough, and pat, push, and roll it out again into a rectangle; it will look a little less messy. Fold again into three as before, each of three "roll-and-fold" operations is called a "turn." Roll out and fold 2 more times, making 4 "turns" in all, and by the last "turn" of the pastry it should actually look like dough. You should see large flakes of butter scattered under the surface on the dough, which is just as it should be. Véronique would be proud!

With the balls of your fingers, make 4 depressions in the dough to indicate the 4 turns. Wrap the dough in plastic, place in a plastic bag and refrigerate for 40 minutes to firm the butter and relax the gluten in the dough. Give the dough 2 more turns, beating it back and forth and up and down first if chilled and hard. Let the dough rest another 30 minutes if it seems rubbery and hard to roll; then it is ready for forming and baking.

Or you can simply go buy Puff Pastries at Walmart, let them thaw, arrange them on a lovely crystal platter, and act exhausted from all the work! Enjoy!

Tamera's Complete Book List:

Rekindled, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0108-5)

Revealed, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0109-3)

Remembered, FOUNTAIN CREEK CHRONICLES, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 0-7642-0110-7)

Fountain Creek Chronicles Trilogy, Books 1- 3 in one volume, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0736-5)

From a Distance, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 1, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0389-3)

Beyond This Moment, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 2, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0390-9)

Within My Heart, TIMBER RIDGE REFLECTIONS, Book 3, Bethany House Publishers (ISBN 978-0-7642-0391-6)

The Inheritance, Women of Faith Fiction, Thomas Nelson Publishers (ISBN 978-1-59554-632-6)