

COUNTERFEIT LOVE BOOK CLUB KIT

Letter the Coordinator

Hi fellow book lover!

Thank you for choosing *Counterfeit Love* as your Book Club's reading choice. Just so you know, I am always eager to meet other readers and it's a possibility that I may join your group either in person or via Zoom. Feel free to drop me a line at Crystal@CrystalCaudill.com with the subject line Book Club to see if it's possible. If you have any specific questions or needs please let me know. Again thank you for choosing my book out of so many amazing choices to read. It is my prayer that you enjoyed it. Would you do me the honor of leaving a review on your favorite retail site, Goodreads, and/or Bookbub? You wouldn't believe how important reviews are--good or bad. And if you could encourage your group members to do so as well, I'd be so grateful. Thank you again.

May all your reading be blessed!

Crystal Caudill



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Discussion Questions - Page 1

1. Counterfeit Love is the title. How did you see this theme played out in the story? How can one tell the difference between counterfeit and genuine love?
2. Colonel Plane was a difficult man, and few people understood Theresa's fierce loyalty to him. Do you feel the loyalty was justified? Why or why not? Would you have been as loyal if you had been in her position?
3. Both Broderick and Theresa made compromises to their convictions in order to find security and success in their lives. How did those compromises affect their relationships with others and with God? What consequences did they face by making those compromises?
4. While Theresa's past love for Broderick had been passionate, her feelings for Edward were practical. Given her circumstances and Broderick's insistence they had no future, how would you have felt in her position? What would you have done?
5. Broderick decided the best way to protect Theresa and his career was to lie and withhold information. How do you think the story might have gone differently if he had chosen to speak the truth from the beginning?

Discussion Questions - Page 2

6. Theresa was willing to give Nathaniel a second chance. What evidence of being a changed man would you have had to see in Nathaniel's life for you to give him a second chance? What is the difference between giving someone a second chance and trusting them? Is there a difference?
7. "Even if" is a phrase repeated throughout the story—often in reference to God's presence and the need to surrender to and trust Him even when our plans don't match His. How do you see God's hand in Theresa's and Broderick's lives as He teaches them He can be trusted even if . . . ?
8. As Theresa wrestled with trusting and loving God even if . . . , she turned to prayer, the story of 2 Chronicles 20, and worship. What strategies do you use when struggling through tough situations? What areas are the hardest for you to surrender to and trust God with?
9. Was Edward's love for Theresa genuine? What leads you to believe this?
10. Both Broderick and Theresa had to learn to forgive someone who hurt them deeply. Were Nathaniel and Colonel Plane worthy of forgiveness? Why or why not?

Who Said What Matching Game

Match the quote with the speaker. For a racing version: Have everyone start with the quotes face down. On the count of three, flip over the quotes and match them as quickly as you can. Slap your finished answers in the center before anyone else. Stack them in order of who gets finished. Whoever is the first one to get all the quotes correct wins. If no one gets all the quotes, the person with the highest score wins. If there is a tie, the person who got it quickest wins.

1. Abraham Hall
2. Broderick Cosgrove
3. Colonel Plane
4. Darlington
5. Edward Greystone
6. Fitz
7. Isaacs
8. Lydia Hall
9. Mrs. Hawking
10. Nathaniel Cosgrove
11. Theresa Plane
12. Whist

- A. "If ever you need anything, you know where to find me."
- B. "I'll fight for her, and I won't fight fair."
- C. "I'm pretty sure that's your fault, not God's."
- D. "Inspection is at six o'clock sharp, and breakfast follows for those who pass muster."
- E. "Give a woman chocolate, and she can face anything."
- F. "Just like you, the beast is too stupid to know when he's lost."
- G. "Most women thank their rescuers, not swing a right hook."
- H. "Never bet against me. You'll always lose."
- I. "Once you love one, you never love another."
- J. "That woman would annoy the devil. I'm sure even God isn't ready to have her full-time in His courts."
- K. "What I've told you is true enough, and it's all the answer you'll get."
- L. "You have one chance to make things right. If you don't, you're paying for my hotel room."



Mrs. Hawking's Hot Chocolate Recipe

Retrieved from *Cocoa and Chocolate*, Walter Baker & Co, 1886

Ingredients:

- One ounce of baker's chocolate (grated)
- Two Tablespoons of sugar
- One Tablespoon hot water
- Quart of boiling milk

Directions:

1. Place the grated chocolate, sugar, and hotter into a small saucepan. Stir over a hot stove until smooth and glossy.
2. Stir in a quart of boiling milk.
3. Mix thoroughly and serve immediately.
4. If a richer taste is desired, double the chocolate, sugar, and water.

Behind-the-Scenes Fun Facts - Page 1

- Crystal DESPISES love triangle stories, but she didn't even realize she'd written one until a friend pointed it out at the end of the editing process. In her mind, Edward had always been the villain. It is funny how God can take something an author despises and use it for His glory.
- The scene where Theresa struggled to survive the flood is based on Crystal's experience of being caught in a riptide and almost drowning when she was ten.
- The heroine went through three name changes before it finally settled on Theresa. Jane Plane was her original name as a play on the saying "plain Jane." Then she took the name Kessara after Crystal fell in love with the unique name of one of her former students. Finally, since Kessara wasn't historically accurate, Crystal landed on Theresa... after Theresa Lisbon from the T.V. show *The Mentalist*, which her family was binge-watching at the time.
- When Crystal first wrote the scene of Colonel Plane's death, she had no idea that she would face the drawn-out death of her own beloved grandmother over the course of the next year. The scene where Theresa felt like cords were shredding her heart as she walked away was how Crystal described her feelings in her journal after leaving her grandmother behind for the last time.

Behind-the-Scenes Fun Facts - Page 2

- Crystal completely rewrote this story five times before submitting it to Kregel for consideration. The first version of the story was almost 160,000 words and looked nothing like the current version.
- Crystal initially chose the setting of Cincinnati because she wanted to get to know the area in which she lived. Very few locations from the story remain today, but anyone can still visit Spring Grove Cemetery, Burnett Woods, and the Roebling Suspension Bridge.
- By definition, Christian Fiction has characters who grow and change with God. Crystal never set out with what her characters would struggle with or how they would grow. Instead, she let God lead and ended up learning the same lessons as her characters while writing. Even if it is still a powerful statement to Crystal as she walks through difficult times.
- While writing Counterfeit Love, Crystal listened to the Wonder Woman soundtrack thousands of times. On occasion, she would switch it up with Lord of the Rings, 2Cellos, and Lindsay Stirling.

About Crystal Caudill



Crystal Caudill is the author of "dangerously good historical romance," with her work garnering awards from Romance Writers of America and ACFW. She is a stay-at-home mom and caregiver, and when she isn't writing, Crystal can be found playing board games with her family, drinking hot tea, or reading other great books at her home outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Find out more at crystalcaudill.com.

Some Quick Favorites:

Movie: *North and South* (BBC - John Thornton, all the way!)

Authors: Michelle Griep, Joanna Davidson Politano, Tara Johnson, Erica Vetsch, Jen Turano, Tessa Afshar, and tons more

Food & Drink: Hot Tea, ice-cold Ale-8-Ones, and Dark Chocolate

Hobbies: Board games with the family, traveling, High Tea

Connect with Crystal

Website: <https://crystalcaudill.com/>

Newsletter: <https://bitly.com/CaudillNews>

Annual Reading Challenge:

<https://crystalcaudill.com/blog/unlockingthepast/>

Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/crystalcaudillsreadingfriends/>

Goodreads: <https://www.goodreads.com/crystalcaudillauthor>

BookBub: <https://www.bookbub.com/authors/crystal-caudill>

Who Said What Matching Game Answers

Answer Key

1. L
2. G
3. K
4. J
5. B
6. H
7. I
8. C
9. D
10. A
11. E
12. F