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In the Shade of the Jacaranda: Regalo Grande, Book Two

by Nikki Arana



About the Book

When a couple faces a life-shattering situation, can love, commitment, and faith keep their family together?

After Angelica Amante defied her wealthy parents' wishes and married an illiterate Mexican stable hand, Antonio Perez, she thought their love had overcome the biggest hurdle they would ever face. But just as Angelica throws herself into her work as a defense attorney, she discovers she is pregnant --- and her world is turned upside down.

As her husband struggles to save his fledgling landscape business, Angelica must juggle the challenges of a demanding boss and an unexpected pregnancy. Then their doctor becomes concerned about the health of their unborn child, and her relationship with her parents becomes troubled. Soon both Angelica and Antonio are confronted with decisions that shake them to their core. Will their faith in God and their love for each other sustain them --- even when it seems their dreams are slipping away?

Discussion Guide

1. What did the prologue lead you to believe about Maclovia? Did it cause you to have certain expectations about how the book would end?

2. Contrast the two grandmothers' responses to the news and preparation for Manuel's birth. Which differences were cultural and which were spiritual?

3. Many expectant parents say they don't care if they have a boy or girl as long as the baby is healthy. At the end of chapter two Maclovia prays, "If it please You, make him perfect. Perfect for Your plans, perfect to accomplish Your purposes." Discuss if this is the same as wanting a healthy baby. How was this prayer answered?

4. Manuel's name means "God is with us." The author chose that name specifically for its meaning. In what ways was God present in this family through Manuel before and after his birth?

5. Man's truth is not always God's truth. Discuss the ways that the novel shows this. What is God's truth about the child that Angelica is carrying? Does it differ from man's truth? If so, how?

6. At the end of the book, a detail about Fronie is revealed when she says she feels she has much in common with Manuel. Discuss why she might feel that way. Do you think her feelings are justified?

7. Why do you think Maclovia habitually waits on God before she begins to pray? Is there a scriptural or cultural basis for this, or do you think it is something she has learned from her life experience?

8. Antonio and Angelica's baby changed several lives. Enumerate these. Which seem most important to you? Why?

9. Discuss the difference between believing in God and believing God. How did perceiving this difference affect Angelica's life?

10. Identify verses in the Bible that equate God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with light. How was light used symbolically in the novel?

11. Maclovia tells Antonio, "It is better to suffer a wrong than to do it." Do you agree? Why or why not?

12. Discuss Antonio and Angelica's differing views of medical testing and of the term "fetus." Do you consider one view right and the other view wrong? Use scripture to support your opinion.

13. When Angelica argues with her parents about naming the baby Ben, Antonio tells her that their reaction was fear-driven. Do you agree? What were they afraid of?

14. At the end of the story, Angelica makes the observation that "impairments came in different forms to different people" What did she mean by that? What "impairments" do you find in yourself?

15. For those who have also read The Winds of Sonoma: compare and contrast Poppy with Maclovia. What do you find most significant about each?

Author Bio

Author and speaker Nikki Arana has received numerous awards for her writing, including the American Christian Fiction Writers? Book of the Year award and Christianbook.com Top 20 Novel of the Year for THE WINDS OF SONOMA. Through her ministry, A Voice for the Persecuted, she inspires hearts toward evangelizing the Muslim community.

Critical Praise

"**In the Shade of the Jacaranda** is a thrilling continuation into Angelica and Antonio's story. It's so emotionally stirring, the reader cannot help but read the story in one sitting."

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