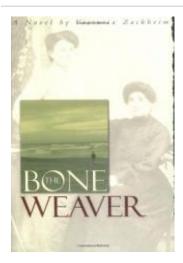


## The Bone Weaver: A Novel

by Victoria Zackheim



## **About the Book**

Set in contemporary Los Angeles and 19th Century eastern Europe, The Bone Weaver explores the life of Mimi Zilber, a highly regarded professor struggling to survive the death of her life-long friend, Sarah. By looking back into three generations of women -- great-grandmother, grandmother, mother -- and studying those threads that make up her family tapestry (threads fashioned from their lives and, thus, their bones), she begins to understand the source of her isolation. Even more, Mimi is forced to confront how, by submerging herself in academia and living her dreams of marriage and motherhood through Sarah, she has managed to avoid intimacy.

Read about **The Bone Weaver** and Victoria Zackheim at www.theboneweaver.com. The author meets with reading groups face-to-face, on the web, or by telephone.

## **Discussion Guide**

- 1. We respond so differently to death, particularly when we lose someone we dearly love. How would you describe Mimi's reaction to Sarah's death?
- **2.** Rivka is such a complex and difficult woman. If you were in Mimi's position, how would you handle Rivka differently?
- 3. We see Mimi through one year of her life. Is there a point in the novel when your feelings about Mimi change?
- **4.** Unlike our experience with Mimi, we follow Rivka through her entire life. How do you feel about Rivka at the beginning of the novel? And is there a point in the novel when your feelings about Rivka change?

**5.** Why do you think Mimi is so uncomfortable in her relationships?

6. What are your feelings about the relationship between Mimi and Daniel throughout the novel? Do those feelings

change as Mimi approaches the end of journey of introspection?

7. If you were Daniel, how would you react to Mimi?

**8.** In your opinion, who was the central character in this novel?

**9.** Discuss one scene in the novel that you found memorable.

10. If you could rewrite the last chapter, what would happen between Daniel and Mimi? And what do you think the

author intended to happen?

**Author Bio** 

Victoria Zackheim is a freelance writer by profession. She has contributed stories and articles to American and French

publications. Her most recent articles about her book tour experiences appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and

Independent Publisher. These tours include appearances at book fairs, bookstores, and non-profit organizational events,

as well as on-line interviews and book groups. Ms. Zackheim has created and leads two writing workshops, Turning

Your Family History Into Fiction and Documenting Your Family History. The Bone Weaver is her first novel. Her

second, Adjusting the Brakes, is nearing completion. In addition to being a novelist, Victoria is a playwright. Her first play, A Deadly Competition, previewed in Los Angeles at the Athena festival. A member of the ACT (American

Conservatory Theater) playwright's group, she is at work on a 3-act play, Defending the Palais Royale, a political study

into the life of French author, Colette.

**Critical Praise** 

"In this lovely novel about a woman in mourning, remembrance of family history plays an important part?."

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