

# Turquoise: A Love Story

by Ayshe Talay-Ongan

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## About the Book

**Set against transcendent love, unrelenting hatred and loyalties to friends and family, *Turquoise* is the story of an enduring and passionate love affair between Yasmin and Renan, which spans two decades, two marriages and three continents.**

Yasmin and her Armenian classmate Ani were oblivious to ethnic differences during their school years in Istanbul. Years later they run into each other, and Ani introduces Renan, her husband, to Yasmin. At that moment under the blazing autumn skies, as Yasmin locks eyes with Renan, she knows that she has come upon her destiny. But political tensions in their land soon force Renan, her secret love, and his family to immigrate to Sydney.

A few years on, Yasmin's diplomat father is appointed as the Turkish Consul General to Los Angeles where the family faces a devastating tragedy that will impact their lives in ways unfathomable. She is now forced to make a choice between passion that defines her and reason that guides her.

When so much is stacked against Yasmin and Renan, how can love possibly triumph?

## Discussion Guide

**1. *Turquoise*** follows Yasmin and Renan's unwavering love through two decades, two marriages and three continents. Have you ever felt so strongly about someone you love that you would forgo all of these obstacles in the name of true love?

**2.** There is so much stacked against Yasmin and Renan's love. Seriously ? what would be *your* breaking point to make you give up and walk away from such an all-encompassing love?

3. As **Turquoise** takes place before cell phones/e-mails/Facebook/Twitter, etc., how do you think that the progression of Yasmin and Renan's relationship may have changed if this story was set in modern-day?
4. Have do you think Yasmin dealt with things dealt to her in the book? How do you think she might have handled things differently?
5. Yasmin is a very complex, genuine character. What are your favorite traits about her, and do you think you would be friends with her in real life?
6. **Turquoise** not only explores love, but also ethnic differences between American, Turkish and Armenian backgrounds. Given the political tensions in the book, how do you think the tragedy incurred by Yasmin's family would be similar and/or different in today's world vs. 20-30 years ago?
7. Because Yasmin and Renan's love is somewhat forbidden, Yasmin expresses several emotions: guilt, anger, unconditional love and a sincere devotion of loyalty to her close friend. Did you find yourself relating to these emotions as they tied to situations in the book ? and if so, did it cause you to look at an experience you've had in your own life differently?
8. If **Turquoise** ? A Love Story was to be made into a movie, who could you see playing Yasmin? Renan? Ani?

## Author Bio

Having lived in Istanbul, New York City, San Francisco, Paris, Florence and Sydney, Ayshe Talay-Ongan is a true citizen of the world. Turkish by birth, American by citizenship and Australian by residence, Talay-Ongan has called Sydney home since 1989. A psychologist (M.S., Ph.D., Columbia University), and emeritus academic, Talay-Ongan has three published textbooks in developmental psychology and dozens of research articles in academic journals.

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## **Turquoise: A Love Story**

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