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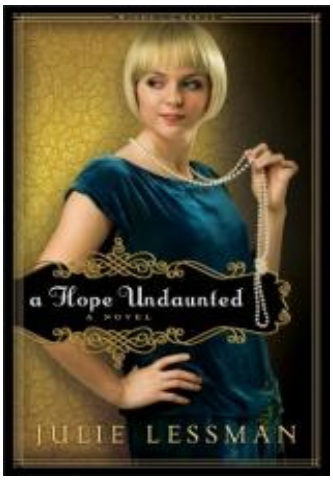
A Hope Undaunted: Winds of Change, Book 1

by Julie Lessman



About the Book

The 1920s are drawing to a close, and feisty Katie O'Connor is the epitome of the new woman --- smart and sassy with goals for her future that include the perfect husband and a challenging career in law. Her boyfriend Jake fits all of her criteria for a husband --- good-looking, well-connected, wealthy, and head-over-heels in love with her. But when she is forced to spend the summer of 1929 with Luke McGee, the bane of her childhood existence, Katie comes face to face with a choice. Will she follow her well-laid plans to marry Jake? Or will she fall for the man she swore to despise forever?

Discussion Guide

1. Katie experienced ridicule and rejection from classmates as a young child, which colored her perception of herself and shaped her goals for her future. Have you ever experienced anything like this, and if so, how did it change you and your goals?

2. Luke and Parker had a deep friendship where they accepted each other for just who they were, just as God accepts us, which in the end manifested itself in giving of themselves to the other. Have you ever had a relationship like this where you laid your needs and desires aside for the needs and desires of the other person?

3. Luke?s friendship with Betty had an element of guilt in it, which affected his decision to marry her when he was actually in love with Katie. Have you ever made decisions based on guilt and if so, did they turn out well or did you regret them?

4. Marcy tells Katie that her grandmother told her to ?always marry a man who loves you a little bit more than you love him.? Why do you think Marcy?s grandmother?s said this?

5. As the youngest child in a family with older sisters, Katie feels removed from her family, especially her father whose discipline she sees as controlling. Are there things or situations in your family that make you feel left out or removed and how do you think you can correct them?

6. Katie loved and respected her father and yet butted heads with him most of her life. Have you ever had conflict with a parent and if so, how were you able to remedy it or not?

7. Throughout the course of the book, Katie eventually draws close to her sisters, each of whom are separate and unique characters. Which of the O?Connor daughters do you relate to the most and why?

8. The shock of Patrick O?Connor?s near heart attack jolts the entire family, shifting their perspective as to what?s really important in life. Has this ever happened to you?

9. Katie has a clear-cut list of what she wants in a husband, but in Luke McGee, God obviously had someone else in mind. Did you or do you have a list of what you would like in a mate and why are those things important to you? What were/are the non-negotiables?

10. Luke and Katie are both strong-willed individuals bent on getting their own way. Do you think this kind of marriage can succeed, and if so, how?

Author Bio

Julie Lessman is an award-winning author whose tagline of PASSION WITH A PURPOSE underscores her intense passion for both God and romance. She is the author of *The Daughters of Boston* series, the *Winds of Change* series, and *The Heart of San Francisco* series. The recipient of 17 Romance Writers of America awards, as well as many other accolades, Lessman was chosen as the #1 Romance Fiction Author of the Year in the *Family Fiction* magazine 2011 and 2012 Readers' Choice Awards. She resides in Missouri with her family.

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