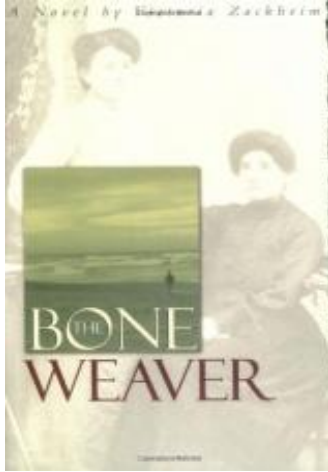


The Bone Weaver: A Novel

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

"(the author) built a bridge of words that carried me back and forth across the ocean?I have heard and used the word "compelling" to describe many books. This book defines the word compelling.?This story of four generations of Jewish women is beautifully executed?descriptions of the lives, joys and pain of the characters are vivid and drawing." ?a very original story by a gifted writer... Mimi's journey is both emotional and analytical?" ?Ms. Zackheim must be carrying a sense of past generations somewhere in her DNA. I'm not sure her scholarly research skills alone, or her talent as a writer, could explain the compelling portrayals in **The Bone Weaver**."

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