



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A Reader's Guide For Individuals and Groups



Awaken, the first book in *The Best Revenge Series™*, is a novel about two young women, Lacey and Lisette, who are on a healing journey from victim to survivor to “thrivers.” In the second book, *Emerge*, the story continues and focuses on Lisette’s journey to find the kind of love and support she’ll need to move forward with her life and thrive!

Watch for *Thrive*, the third book in *The Best Revenge Series™* coming soon!

1. What are some of the ways that Lisette was impacted by the traumas of her life? These traumas include her mother dying when she was very young, going to live with Ralph and not finishing school or learning to read well as a child.
2. How has Lisette been able to deal with some of these impacts in her life? In this story, who came to help her and who hindered her in this healing process?
3. What did you learn about the healing process from this book that has been most helpful to you?
4. In the book, Lisette talks about “unconditional love” as “reliable love.” What does it mean for Lisette to lose unconditional love when her mother dies and regain it again when she finds a new family with Jenny and Brad?
5. How do you think Brad will be as a father to Lisette? She has forgiven him for not finding her sooner, but can he step up now and be the father she’s never had? What does Brad have to do to show that he is interested and involved in her life?

6. What are some of the instances in the story where characters, such as Gerald and Shirley, Erick's gym clients, need to be more aware of the *Warning Signs of an Unhealthy, Abusive Relationship* listed on the next few pages? How could Shirley keep herself safer in her marriage? Or should she leave the marriage?
7. Has anything ever happened to you in one of your relationship that might be described as unhealthy or abusive? How did you deal with this or how might you react now that you have more knowledge of the dangerous dynamics in such a relationship?
8. What would be the best way for Sophie and Lisette to remember Lacey and give her a lasting legacy on that campus? How could a community such as Lacey's college work to prevent dating violence?
9. What are some of the changes for women that have taken place since 1979 when Marie was a dancer in a strip club and pregnant out of wedlock? What are some of the ways violence against women has been addressed since 1999 when Lacey was killed on a college campus? How has the #MeToo movement impacted the lives of men and women in this country?
10. How have the political aspirations of women changed since 1979? Are women faring better as governors, members of Congress, and potential presidential candidates than Jenny Jablonski did in 2009?
11. Who was your favorite character in the story and why?
12. What would you like to see next for this character as they continue to grow, change and heal?

