



Things Remembered

By Georgia Bockoven
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Introduction

To face the future, a woman must let go of the past. . . .

Returning to her childhood home in the golden hills of Northern California means regret and pain for Karla Esterbrook. Yet she can't refuse when her ailing grandmother, Anna, asks her to help settle her affairs. After all, Anna raised Karla and her younger sisters after their parents' death twenty years before. But from the beginning a powerful clash of wills separated Karla and her grandmother, leaving them both bitter and angry.

Little does Karla know that a very determined Anna will do everything in her power to bridge the chasm between them. But can the wounds of the past truly be healed? For Karla, opening her heart could lead to more hurt—or perhaps to reconciliation . . . and a love the likes of which she has never known.

Questions for Discussion

1. Taking into consideration the emotionally wounded state Karla was in when she came to live with Anna as a child, do you think their adversarial relationship was a given, or was there something Anna could, or should, have done to ease the transition that she didn't?
2. How big a factor were the ages of the three girls in their response to Anna when they came to live with her?
3. Grandparents taking over the rearing of their grandchildren is not uncommon in today's society. How do you feel about the way the book handles the problems created by combining two vastly different generations? Is love always enough in a situation like this?
4. Could Karla have made the transition in her feelings for Anna without coming to terms with her mother's death?
5. Do you think Anna was right when she said that she and Karla were alike? How important, or unimportant, was the realization?
6. If you were to give Grace her own book, how do you see it ending? Did you like or understand her? Did you see any redeeming qualities in her?
7. Do you think Karla, Heather, and Grace carried their emotional baggage into the relationships they had with the men in their lives? How?
8. Why do you feel it was so important to Heather to have Anna to herself in the end, even to the exclusion of her sisters, even to the point of going against her doctor's advice and traveling to Sacramento for Thanksgiving?
9. *Things Remembered* is a book about women and their relationships. Did you see yourself, your friends, or your own family members in any of the characters? If so, did it hurt or help your enjoyment of the story?
10. Do you think setting the book in the fall and including the holidays made it different than it would have been had it been set in another season?

About the Author

Georgia Bockoven is an award-winning author who began writing fiction after a successful career as a freelance journalist and photographer. Her books have sold more than four million copies worldwide. The mother of two, she resides in Northern California with her husband, John.