

Book Club Questions for *In the Context of Love* by Linda K. Sienkiewicz

1. How did her mother's secret shape Angelica's view of herself and the choices she made afterward?
2. Do you think she was acting out of rebellion, grief, self-protection, or something else? How much responsibility do we bear for decisions made in the aftermath of trauma?
3. The novel is told as though Angelica is speaking to Joe, her first love. How did this narrative choice affect your reading experience?
4. What does Joe represent to Angelica beyond being a former boyfriend? Memory? Lost innocence? A road not taken?
5. Angelica's relationship with her mother evolves throughout the story. Did your feelings about her mother change as more of her history was revealed?
6. How do the novel's women navigate the tension between protecting loved ones and telling the truth?
7. Several characters carry secrets, and many believe they are protecting others by keeping them. When, if ever, is withholding the truth justified? Did the secrets in the novel ultimately cause more harm or more healing?
8. The title *In the Context of Love* suggests that love can take many forms—not all of them healthy or romantic. Which relationships in the novel best embody the title?
9. How does the book challenge traditional ideas about love, forgiveness, and redemption?
10. By the novel's conclusion, do you think Angelica finds what she has been searching for? Why or why not?