



The Risk in Crossing Borders - Book Club Questions

1. Elias's continued work as chief of surgery during the siege of Aleppo, put his family at risk. What are your thoughts about this? How should someone decide, when forced to choose between helping others in desperate need versus protecting their family? What are some other situations where people have been forced to make similar choices?
2. If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast as Yana, Elias, Emma, Maria Burns, and Ellen?
3. What were your least and most favorite parts of this book?
4. Which location in the book would you most like to visit?
5. Were there any passages that particularly stood out to you? Why?
6. Which character did you find most relatable?
7. Elias drew similarities between the mistreatment of refugees and the mistreatment of transgender individuals. Do you agree? In what ways are they similar, and in what ways are they different?
8. Many experts predict that the number of refugees will increase over the next decades due to climate change, water shortages, and related military conflict. What are appropriate responses from nations, communities and individuals to this issue?
9. What do you think Rima told Victor before boarding the bus in Damascus?