

## AS LONG AS THE LEMON TREES GROW

ZOULFA KATOUH



Book Club Pick

### PRAISE

**"A searing story of war, loss, family, and love. An absolute must read."**

—Sabaa Tahir

**"A gorgeous, compelling read that you will not be able to put down."**

—Samira Ahmed

**"An incredibly important work of our time that will no doubt touch millions."**

—Jesse Q. Sutanto

**"As gorgeous as it is groundbreaking. This book is devastatingly beautiful."**

—David Arnold

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Layla says to Salama, "This revolution is about us getting our lives back. It's not about survival" (p. 11). Do you agree? Why do you think revolutions happen?
2. Layla remarks, "This is not a war, Salama. It's a revolution" (p. 12). What do you think the difference between the two is?
3. Khawf appeared to Salama after her mother was killed, and he only shows her the horrible things that have happened or that could happen. Why do you think he does that? What does he represent to Salama?
4. Salama is worried that every day could be her last, yet she is reluctant to leave Syria, even knowing it would be better for herself and Layla to leave. What do you believe is keeping her there?
5. How do you feel about Am charging thousands of dollars to desperate people wanting a better life?
6. Salama uses Am's wounded daughter against him to get passages for herself and Layla on a boat leaving Syria. Do you think that was the right thing for her to do?
7. Hamza makes Salama promise to take care of Layla, even though she is the younger sister. Do you think that was fair to Salama? Do you think it played a part in the break of Salama's mental health?
8. Kenan was ready to send his siblings out of Syria while he stayed behind. Discuss why you think he would have made that decision.
9. How do you think flowers help Salama find a moment of peace?
10. Kenan takes Salama to see the sunset and says they deserve to see the colors (p. 199). Do you agree that it is important to see beauty even in the pain? Why or why not?
11. Kenan says to Salama, "There are enough people hurting you. Don't be one of them" (p. 209). What do you think he means? How was Salama hurting herself?
12. Why was it important for Salama to go to the protest with Kenan when she was so close to leaving?
13. Why does Salama struggle to let Layla go after the grocery store shooting?
14. What do you think lemons and lemon trees represent in the story?
15. While the story of Salama is a work of fiction, the story of Syria and her people is very real. Why do you think this story needed to be told?
16. *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow* is a love story at its core. Who do you think it's a love story to?