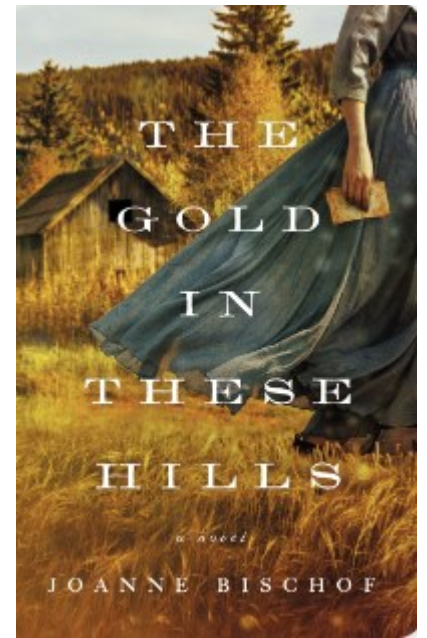


Carey Page Turner's **November 20th** Discussion

THE GOLD IN THESE HILLS

By JOANNE BISCHOF

Characters:



- Were you immediately engaged with the book, or did it take you a while?
- What did you like best about this book? What did you like least?
- Juniper found the land around her as captivating as it was challenging. Has there been a time in your life when you have lived in such a place? What was your experience? How did you find strength and endurance?
- Let's contrast Juniper and Edie. In what ways were they different? How were they similar? What ways did you find each woman growing over the course of the novel?
- If you could share a Bible verse with one of the characters in the story, which character would it be and what verse would you choose? What scene has you choosing that verse for them?
- Little Bethany's personality stems not only from who she is but is also greatly influenced by the place where she is growing up. In what ways did Kenworthy mold her into the girl she is? Did any childhood adventures or circumstances shape who you are today? How?
- Johnny made the big decision to buy the Cohen's cabin on the spot, which brought some angst as he toiled with the idea. What is a big decision that you have made in your life that was worth the challenges surrounding it?

- Who was your favorite character and why? Which character or moment prompted the strongest emotional reaction for you? Why?
- Sonoma's heritage is rich with the different cultures that have shaped her. In what ways have your own cultures and heritages shaped you and your life? Are there any stories or traditions that you are especially proud of and would like to share?
- The title *The Gold in These Hills* is meant to represent what truly matters: the people we come to care about, the lessons God teaches us, and the way a place shapes us. How do you think this title was reflected in the lives of the different characters? What/who did they specifically come to care about and what lessons did God teach them?
- If you arrived in Kenworthy during the late 1800s and early 1900s, where do you imagine yourself settling? What might have been your role or your family's role in the community?
- What do you think the author's goal was in writing this book? What ideas was she trying to illustrate?
- How did you feel about the ending? How might you change it?

Rating: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10