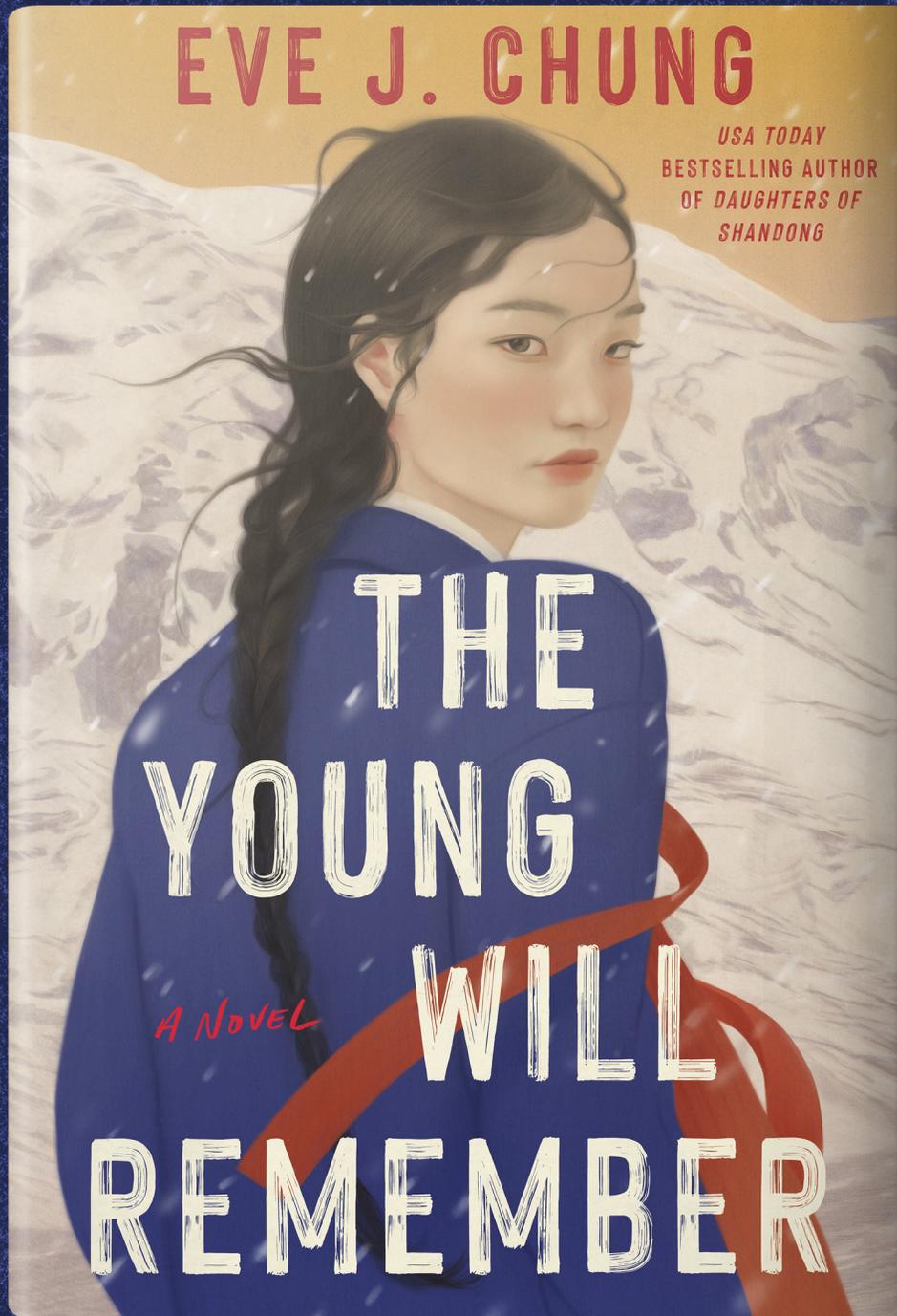


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Book Club Kit

A NOVEL
BY EVE J.
CHUNG

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear Reader,

Thank you for picking up my second novel, *The Young Will Remember*. I often tell people that my debut, *Daughters of Shandong*, was my grandmother's story, while this second book is very much my own. It isn't based on events in my life, but it is a story about women activists, and the impact of war on women, which I have observed in various countries and at various phases of my career in human rights. Like Ellie, I believe in fighting with our presses and sowing words like seeds.

The Korean War is not taught much, if at all, in American history classes, despite extensive American involvement. Only five years after the end of World War II, former allied powers—the US, the USSR, and China (albeit under a different government)—were vying for control over the Korean Peninsula, teetering at the edge of a nuclear confrontation. About 12.5 percent of the Korean population was killed in this war, and what began as a temporary line drawn by Allied powers became sealed with blood on Korean soil.

Modern warfare has evolved drastically since the 1950s, but the human elements—the grief, the anger, the despair, and the devastation—are the same. Women continue to suffer the cost of wars that are overwhelmingly waged by men, and women continue to be omitted from decision-making, when their equal participation is crucial to long-term stability. As a mother, I have many hopes for the world that we will leave for future generations. Peace is fragile, but we must find a way toward it; we must learn from our history. The greatest protection for our children will not come from presidents or prime ministers, but from ordinary people committed to building more bridges than bombs.

I still believe this.

I will always believe this.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story.

With all my love,

Eve J. Chung



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The story is set in the 1950s, but do you see any parallels between the events and ideas in the book and in society today?
2. Why does Ellie struggle with her Asian American identity both at home and abroad? Can you relate to her experience in any way?
3. Emma never gives up on finding Yun Hee even though everyone else is convinced that her search is hopeless. Why was she so certain that her daughter was alive? How did you feel about the book's ending?
4. Describe the trajectory of Ellie and Imo's relationship. What do you think was a turning point between them? What do they have in common with each other?
5. Did the revelation of Imo's traumatic past help you understand her actions and character differently?
6. What does the phrase "The old will die, but the young will remember" mean to you?
7. What did you think about Emma's decision to keep the news about Pastor Pak from Ellie? What about her decision to keep the news about Imo from Jae-Min? Were they the right things to do? Would you have done the same in her position?
8. Imo and Emma often clash, but they also have things in common. Describe their differences and similarities, especially when it comes to motherhood.
9. This book highlights topics such as motherhood, the resilience of women, and finding a shared humanity during wartime. How do you see these reflected in the story?
10. Were you familiar with the Korean War before reading this book? Did this story change your views or your understanding of the war?
11. What are some of the injustices faced by the women in this book? Do you see some of these injustices in society today?