

***The Crisanta Knight Series* – Book Club Questions**

1. In popular media there's often an assumption that women will read and watch stories with male heroes, and men will not do likewise with female heroes.
 - a. What are your thoughts on this assumption?
 - b. In your opinion, what qualities does a female heroine need to hold in order to appeal to both audiences and achieve mainstream popularity?
 - c. Are those qualities any different than what you would expect from a male hero?
 - d. Who are some of your favorite fictional heroes/heroines and why?

2. When it comes to the action genre, many critics stipulate that for a female-led story to be successful it has to cater to certain levels of macho manliness and male fantasy. As a result, female heroines become caricatures of an archetype and less representative of actual women.
 - a. As a boy *or* a girl, have you related to or looked up to any fictional female characters in recent years? If so, which ones and why?
 - b. What qualities do you wish were more represented by fictional heroines?
 - c. What is the best and worst example of a female heroine in the action genre that you have experienced?

3. In *The Crisanta Knight Series*, the main character struggles with a desire to not be something else, but me something more.
 - a. Have you ever felt limited by certain stereotypes about who you are and who you can become?
 - b. Do you ever feel conflicted between different sides of yourself?
 - c. Do you believe a person can find balance between opposing natures?

4. Fate plays an important role in *The Crisanta Knight Series*.

- a. Do you believe in fate? Are our lives predetermined for certain paths or is everything changeable based on choice?
 - b. Have you ever made a choice that—looking back—you realized rewrote your fate, affecting a lasting and/or significant difference in your life?
5. Change is one of the most important themes in *The Crisanta Knight Series*.
 - a. Many stories have stipulated that people can't really change. Do you believe that is true? Or do you believe people can change?
 - b. Have you ever truly changed in some way?
 - c. Is change circumstantial? Is it as much dependent on external factors as it is on internal factors?
 - d. Are there things about yourself that you wish you could change? What steps have you taken to affect that change?
6. Two archetypes that come under scrutiny in *The Crisanta Knight Series* are the hero and the princess.
 - a. In your opinion, what qualities define a princess?
 - b. What qualities define a hero?
 - c. In regards to your answers to the previous two questions, are there any differences between what qualities you feel *should* define these archetypes and what stereotypical qualities actually represent them in modern media?
7. In both hero and princess stories alike, the question of goodness comes into play. As in, "What makes each of these archetypes good?" Mercy, self-sacrifice, pureness of heart, etc. Later in the series, Crisanta Knight has to deal with the personal obstacle of staying good despite corrupting influences.
 - a. What, in your opinion, makes a hero good?
 - b. What makes a princess good?
 - c. What do you think makes a good person in general?
 - d. And finally, if your answers to any of the last three questions are different, why is that?