



the GLOSS
SPEAK, OKINAWA
ELIZABETH MIKI BRINA

1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. Speak, Okinawa is a story of identity but it's also a story of war and struggle. How much did you know previously about Okinawa and its occupation during the war?
3. The author weaves her own tale with that of the history of Okinawa. Did you find this effective, did you enjoy learning about the history of the land on top of her own personal plight?
4. Elizabeth lived a life between two cultures, two identities are there any ways you can relate to her or her parents?
5. Elizabeth sees her mom as weak for most of her childhood - as she aligns herself more with her father and Western ideals. Discuss the ways her mother is strong and courageous.
6. A large part of the book explores language and how integral it is to not only connection but "fitting in". Discuss the ways language plays a key role in both Elizabeth's and her mother's lives. Why does Elizabeth feel it's important that she learn to speak Japanese when she's older.
7. "I believe we inherit sin as much as we inherit trauma. I believe inherited sin is its own form of trauma. But maybe we have a chance at redemption. By being aware, being honest. By giving up power. By letting the world change. By changing ourselves. By apologizing. By forgiving? What would atonement and forgiveness look like? Within a person, a family, a nation?" Discuss this quote from the book.
8. Brina's story isn't chronological - how did you enjoy the way she chose to tell her story?
9. Memoir is sometimes a difficult genre to read, as it's based on a true story. Did knowing this was someone's truth affect your experience as a reader? What genre do you most enjoy if not Memoir. What is your favorite memoir?
10. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?