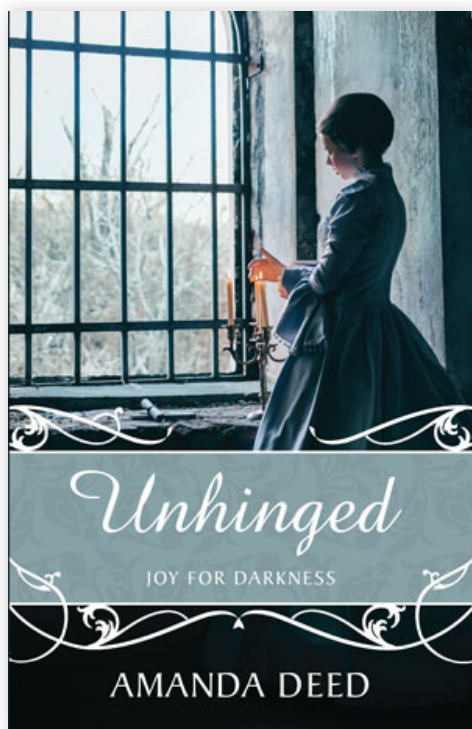




BOOK CLUB NOTES



Unhinged

By Amanda Deed

ISBN: 987-1922074256

RRP: \$19.95

Serena Bellingham is faced with a choice she must make. Leave her struggling family to serve the eccentric genius, Edward King, or see him imprison her father.

Her decision leads her to Aleron House, a home shrouded in secrecy, strange attitudes and even stranger happenings. Is Edward King all that she has heard, or is the truth something entirely different? Is it possible that the handsome architect might need her even more than her beloved family does?

Unhinged is an Australian retelling of Beauty and the Beast, complete with a mysterious curse and a precious rose.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Amanda Deed grew up in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne in a Christian home, and found faith at an early age. She has followed her passion to serve the Lord through music and literature since her teen years. Now married, with three children, Amanda enjoys the variety of being a mother, finance administrator, musician and historical romance writer. Her debut novel, *The Game*, won the 2010 CALEB Prize for fiction, and *Ellenvale Gold* is currently a finalist for the same prize in 2012. For more information, go to www.amandadeed.com.au.

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Questions:

1. The premise of *Unhinged* is the consequence of Serena's father's attempting to steal from Edward King. Discuss how small mistakes can have a big impact on those around us.

2. Caleb Moncrief is a good man, but is misjudged by Serena for most of the story. Talk about how easy it is to judge a person without really knowing them.
 - How can you avoid making this mistake in future?

3. Mrs Jones tries to manage her fears by controlling the circumstances. Discuss how damaging this kind of response can be.
 - What is a better way to handle fear?

4. Edward King is very conceited at times. Discuss the proverb 'pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.'

5. Edward's home is one of affluence, but where relationships are strained. Serena's home is one of low economy, however it is filled with love. Discuss the differences in these circumstances.

6. One of the themes in *Unhinged* is mental illness. Discuss what it means to have good mental health.
 - What are some symptoms of mental illness?

7. Do you, or does someone close to you, suffer from mental health problems? Discuss how you deal with this.

8. Compare how people with mental illness were treated in the early 1800s to how people are treated today. What differences are there?

9. Sometimes people with mental health problems can be difficult/painful to deal with. Discuss the importance of loving and supporting these people even in those tough times.

10. Edward was suicidal, but his nephews discovered him in time to save him. If you knew someone close to you was suicidal, what would you do to help them?
