

Discussion Questions for *Across the Bridge*, A Copper Island Novel, by Kristin Neva

1. Which parts of *Across the Bridge* made you laugh? Cry?
2. In what ways was Marcella shaped by her mother's death?
3. Marcella was hurt when well-meaning Christians attempted to comfort her. (Chapter 11, pages 79-80) Have you ever experienced grief? If so, did you hear similar statements? What did you find helpful/unhelpful?
4. Did Marcella's dad make a mistake in marrying Kandy?
5. When Drew tells Marcella he sees how adversity has shaped her positively, she replies, "Just because it happens, doesn't mean it was meant to be." (Chapter 39, page 248) Do you agree or disagree with her statement?
6. Marcella asks Louisa, "How could God let my mom suffer like she did?" Louisa finally replies, "Good and evil. Light and darkness. Love and loss. Joy and suffering. We'd never know one without the other." (Chapter 30, pages 199-200) Later after Louisa's death when AJ is sick, Marcella quotes Louisa's words to him. (Chapter 42, page 270) What helped her move to more peaceful place? Have you ever wrestled with the problem of suffering?
7. Did the resolution Drew found with Danny regarding AJ surprise you? Did you expect there to be more drama? Why do you think Danny responded the way he did?
8. How did Marcella change during the course of the novel?
9. Which character did you relate to the most? Why? Which character would you most like to spend time with?
10. If you have read the other books in the series, which one of the three was your favorite? Why?