

Welcome!

Dear Book Club Coordinator,

Do you remember the first time you experienced some place new? Maybe it was the next town over or maybe it was a whole new country. There's something so wonderful about discovering a place you've never seen before through its sights, food, and people. That's what I hope you'll experience if you select my debut novel, *Sketchy Tacos*, for your reading list: the excitement of travel, the eccentricities of a different culture, and the wonderful people of Mexico.

The idea for *Sketchy Tacos* came to me while visiting Mexico with my then-fiancé, who'd grown up in Mexico. He introduced me to a side of the country I hadn't seen in the news or in movies, and I knew I had to share!

I love the story of *Sketchy Tacos* because it combines so many things I adore in a novel: travel, self-discovery, adventure, a little romance, and an exploration of faith.

Discussion questions are available to facilitate book club discussions. I've also included a lot of fun extras on my website including a Mexico Fun Facts guide, writing prompts, and a whole library of adventurer and adventure reader resources.

If you decide to select *Sketchy Tacos*, please let me know! I would be thrilled to send the group postcards or "join" your book discussion via video call. You can email me at meg@megdgonzalez.com.

Meg

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Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, Mila is dropped into a whole new language and a whole new culture. In what ways does the Mexican culture differ from your culture? In what ways is it the same?
2. Mila regularly criticizes her appearance and allows Rosa to dress her up on more than one occasion. How does her image affect her confidence? What does she gain when she finds her own style in stead of copying others?
3. Throughout the novel, Mila is searching for her identity, at the same time, she's trying to please those around her. How do her friends and family affect her identity and her search for it? What does she gain by trying to please her friends and family? What does she lose? Does she have to stop seeking for approval before she can find herself or is there a balance between the two?
4. Which of the two boys, Christian or David, was better for Mila? Why? What traits does a good date or boyfriend have? If they don't have such traits, when is the best time to end the relationship?
5. Instead of telling Rosa's parents about the party and possibly betraying Rosa's trust, Mila lies about the party and goes with Rosa to protect her. Was this the best course of action? If not, what should she have done instead? Why?

Discussion Questions

6. Mila believes that because she is not perfect, she is not good enough for God. Why does she have this opinion? Is this opinion right or wrong? Why?

7. Mila struggles to read the Bible because she's been a Christian for so long that she's read it all before. Do you share her struggle? What can be gained by reading the scripture over and over again?

8. At the first outreach event, Mila was firmly against street preaching due to the experiences she'd had. Later, she learns that her host family became Christians because of street preaching. What experiences have you had with street preaching? Have they swayed you toward or away from Christianity? In what ways can street preaching be helpful or harmful.

9. A lot of unexpected things happen to Mila throughout the novel—getting lost in Taxco, Christian attacking her, Manual turning out to be a famous painter. How does she find God in each unexpected place? How can you remember to turn to God when life gets out of control?

10. Mila comes to Mexico with a set of plans. Her pursuit of those plans goes completely awry. Only when she lets go of control, does she accomplish those plans, but in ways she never imagined. Has this ever happened in your life? How do our plans hold up to God's plans? What can happen when we hold on to our plans too tightly? What can happen when let them go and let God take control?

Mexico Trivia Quiz

1. What are the three colors of the Mexican flag?
 2. What two building are in every town square in Mexico?
 3. What's the main religion/church in Mexico?
 4. What's the capital of Mexico?
 5. What food is Mexico best known for around the world?
 6. Where do the majority of Mexicans get fresh fruit and veggies?
 7. What must be done when entering or exiting a party?
- Bonus: What region in Mexico is known for their chocolate?

(1) Red, white, and green (2) A church and a government building for the city (3) Catholic (4) Mexico City (5) Tacos, of course! (6) The local market (7) Greet every person with a hug and kiss (Bonus) Oaxaca

Not-to-Miss Party Recipe



Meg's Special Guacamole

Avocado

Lime

Onion (fresh)

Garlic Powder

Caldo de Pollo (Mexican Chicken Bouillon) -- loose, not cubes

The problem with sharing Mexican recipes is that there are no recipes! It's all to taste.

I tend to go with one avocado per person for parties of six or less. This may leave you with a few leftovers... but rarely. Using a fork, mash the avocados in a bowl. Cut limes in half and squeeze into the bowl--about one-half lime per avocado. Dice onion into fine cubes and mash into avocado to release juices. Sprinkle in garlic powder and Caldo de Pollo generously. Mix, continuing to mash, and taste with tortilla chips.

Troubleshooting: Need a little more salt? Add a dash more Caldo de Pollo. Want a brighter flavor? Squeeze in more lime.

Want to add a little variety? Dice up tomatoes, pineapple, or mango and toss them in. If you're going fruity, I suggest going lighter on the bouillon.