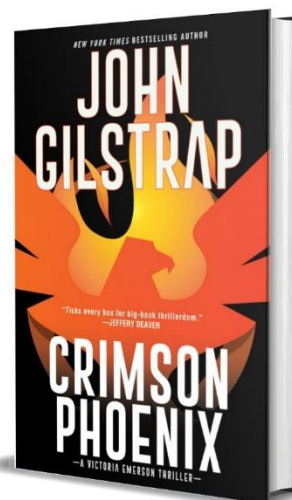


Discussion Questions

CRIMSON PHOENIX by John Gilstrap

These suggested questions are to spark conversation and enhance your reading of *Crimson Phoenix*.



- Victoria Emerson refuses to take shelter in a secure bunker for government officials when she learns her sons would not be welcome. If she had been allowed to bring her sons, do you think she should have gone? If you were given entry to a shelter where you could wait out an apocalyptic event and you were only allowed to bring three people with you, who would they be?
- In the nuclear attack at the beginning of *Crimson Phoenix*, millions of people are killed, but millions of people survive as well. The infrastructure of government and society is gone, so it falls to individual citizens to figure out a way to continue living. If you were tasked with rewriting the basic “rules” of society, what would they be?
- What do you think Victoria Emerson’s most important survival skills are?
- If an event like the one in *Crimson Phoenix* was to occur, what aspects of our current society do you think would be most important to preserve?
- Do you think the basic principles of American democracy could help survivors get through the kinds of challenges described in *Crimson Phoenix*? What would the Founding Fathers do in such a situation?
- What qualities would you look for in a leader if you found yourself in a world similar to that portrayed in *Crimson Phoenix*?
- In *Crimson Phoenix* some of the characters react to the crisis with acts of heroism, while others pursue selfish ends. What do you think determines how a person will act in a crisis?
- In this novel, “Crimson Phoenix” is a code indicating the highest level of danger. But as a title, it also suggests that the world as we know it could rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes of devastation. Do you think that would happen?