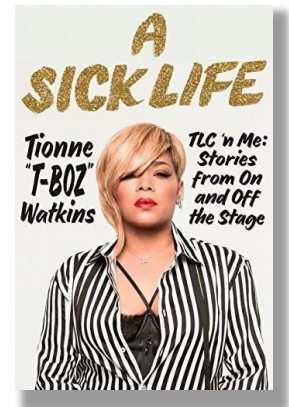


Discussion Guide

A Sick Life: TLC 'n Me: Stories from On and Off the Stage

By Tionne “T-Boz” Watkins

1. As a child, Tionne was more interested in singing and dancing than in worrying about her health. Is she able to maintain this attitude through her whole life? How does she succeed or fail at doing this?
2. Tionne notes that people have different responses to pain. Hers is to push through it, whether it is physical or emotional pain. When does this work and when does it not? Why do you think people respond to pain so differently?
3. What factors prompted Tionne to go public with her sickle cell diagnosis? What were the results and how did she feel about them? Do you see them as positive or negative outcomes?
4. Tionne does not always think the best of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals. What are the characteristics of professionals she trusts and those she does not trust? How do they compare to your feelings about the medical community?
5. How would you characterize the relationship between Tionne and Lisa? What led you to your conclusion? After Left Eye’s death, T-Boz and Chilli stay together without replacing her. Do you think that was the right decision? Why or why not?
6. Who are the other important people in Tionne’s life and why are they significant to her?
7. TLC’s image as a group suffered hits because of incidents like fights on tour, the Magic Mountain riot, Lisa’s arson charge and the group’s legal battles. To what degree if any do you think members deserved the reputation.
8. How do TLC’s financial issues affect the group? What lessons do they learn from the experience? Did the decision to declare bankruptcy surprise you? Explain your answer.
9. Tionne says the news that she could have a child “changed everything I thought I knew about myself.” How does it change her? What difficulties does a person with sickle cell encounter in having and then raising a child? How would you feel about having a child if you were in Tionne’s shoes?
10. “TLC had success by being ourselves and never compromising who we were. Being a woman in music is a strike against you, and being a black woman, another strike. If you buy into the idea that girls need to get butt-naked onstage or on TV to make it or be successful, well, it’s just not true.” In what ways did the members of TLC define and affirm who they are in their music and their careers?



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