

Podcast episode airs
10-7-19



Educated

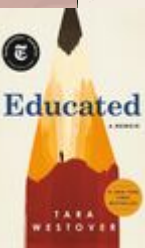
A Memoir

Content Warning: Abuse, Graphic Accidents, Racial Slurs in Ch. 20

- Westover's family practiced some extreme gender roles. What roles and rules were striking to you? How were they enforced? Did they contribute to the abuse that took place?
- How has the fixation on women's sexual purity been used to control women—both in the book and historically? In the context of the book, how did the abuse start? How might sexual education have impacted Westover's experiences?
- Westover learns about feminism for the first time in Chapter 30. While reading John Stuart Mill, she came upon quotes like, “[Women are] a subject on which nothing final can be known.” And “Women have been coaxed, cajoled, shoved and squashed into a series of feminine contortions for so many centuries, that it is now quite impossible to define their natural abilities or aspirations.” How do these quotes connect to (or feel disconnected from) your own experiences?
- Westover's feminist awakening happens in chapter 30. She finally had the vocabulary to understand the uneasiness, violence, and sexism in her home, and she could see the power disparity between men and women's roles. When did you have your feminist awakening? What did this awakening reveal to you about your life and the lives of others? What role does education and vocabulary play in these awakenings?



For more info, head to ShoutingAboutTheSilence.weebly.com





- What role does education, and education in history, in particular, play in developing an understanding of social justice and social inequalities?
- On page 293, Westover writes, “I had begun to conceive of what my education might cost me, and I had begun to resent it.” (293) What is the cost of Westover’s education? What would have been the cost if she had not pursued it?
- Over the course of the book, Westover begins to discover that, before beginning her formal education, the voice in her head wasn’t her own—it was a culmination of all of the teachings and stories she heard growing up, which all came from a single perspective. On page 304, she writes, “I had come to believe that the ability to evaluate many ideas, many histories, many points of view, was at the heart of what it means to self-create. If I yielded now, I would lose more than an argument. I would lose custody of my own mind.” What does Westover’s book as a whole prove about the impacts of opening ourselves up to multiple perspectives and stories?

shouting
about the
♀ silence

