

Study Guide for September 17, 2024

Sold on a Monday: A Novel by Kristina McMorris

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOOK CLUB

1. Which character became your favorite? Your least favorite? How did your opinions of the major characters change throughout the story?
2. In the prologue, the unidentified narrator reflects upon “the interwoven paths that had delivered each of us here. Every step a domino essential to knocking over the next.” After reading the book, do you agree with that view? Can you pinpoint a single decision in your own life that spurred a series of significant, unforeseen effects?
3. At the Royal, Max Trevino makes a difficult decision regarding his sister. Do you agree with his choice? Do you believe he intended to stick with the plan he proposed? For readers of McMorris’s novel *The Edge of Lost*, did your impression of Max Trevino differ while reading this book?
4. Early in the story, Lily carries a burden of shame and guilt regarding her son, due to societal norms and her own dark secret. Would you have felt the same in her shoes? Would you, or Lily, feel differently in present times?
5. Like many parents during the Great Depression, Geraldine Dillard faces a near- impossible choice when Alfred Millstone appears at her house with an offer. In her position, would you have made the same decision?
6. People deal with grief in various, sometimes extreme ways. How do you feel about the manner in which Sylvia Millstone and Ellis’s father, Jim Reed, came to grips with the loss of a child? Do you sympathize with them equally? What are your thoughts on Alfred Millstone’s choices and actions?
7. Throughout the story, Lily struggles to balance motherhood and work. Do you believe her career ambitions were solely for the sake of her son’s future? If not, would she ever admit this to herself or another person? Have these considerations changed in today’s society?

8. Lily and Ellis break several laws while on a mission to find and rescue Calvin. Do you agree or disagree with their actions? Would you have done anything differently in their situation?

9. In positive and/or negative ways, how do you think Ruby and Calvin were affected by the whole of their experiences in the story? How would these elements likely shape who they'd become as adults, or as parents themselves?

10. Where do you envision the characters soon after the story ends? How about five years from now?