

On the Same Page – May 2021

Discussion Questions: The Undoing of Saint Silvanus (Beth Moore)

1. In general, what did you think of the book?
2. At the beginning of the story, Adella connives to get Jillian and Olivia together. Do you think she was right to do that? Have you ever been on either the managing or receiving end of a set-up like this? What are some of the pros and cons of getting involved in someone else's relationship?
3. How would you describe Jillian at the beginning of the book?
4. Describe the relationship between Jillian and her mother, Jaclyn (Jade). How did it change?
5. Describe the relationship between Jillian and her grandmother, Olivia. How did it change?
6. Early in the book Jillian fears she might be pregnant and recalls an earlier pregnancy when her mother "took care of" it for her by arranging an abortion. Jaclyn, though, chose to continue her pregnancy with Jillian when she was unmarried and had already broken up with Jillian's father. Why do you think Jaclyn chose to keep her baby? Why did she make a different decision for Jillian? Did any of this have an impact on Jillian?
7. Jaclyn believes a woman is only valuable to the extent she is desired by a man. She advises Jillian to do whatever it takes to hold on to Vince. What kinds of things might be at the root of such a belief? In what ways—for good or ill—has this helped to shape Jillian into the person she is when we first meet her?
8. We don't see much of Jillian's friend Allie in the book because their friendship was damaged by (a) Jillian choosing Vince over Allie and (b) Jillian's refusal to hear Allie's concerns about the relationship. What is a healthy way to handle this kind of conflict in a friendship?
9. The first time Jillian visits Stella, Stella apparently drugs her. Yet Jillian never seems to suspect this or to follow up on it in any way. To the contrary, she continues to pursue a relationship with Stella. What is going on in Jillian that causes her to ignore—to not even to register—warning signs that something is wrong?
10. Stella uses tarot cards as part of her attempt to control and direct Jillian's thinking. How did that part of the story make you feel? What do you think a Christian's response should be to such things—are they harmless? A dangerous, slippery slope? Truly evil?
11. How would you describe Stella's motivation in trying to terrorize Olivia and to hurt Jillian? What do you think she was after? What might have been a healthy way she could have approached the problem?

12. Jillian is like many women whose mothers have taught them (or simply modelled for them) an inaccurate and unhealthy view of themselves. In what ways have you seen this happen in your circle of family or friends? Where have you seen mothers trying to break this cycle? What are some things you can do in your own relationships with children, siblings, or friends to break the cycle?
13. David says he doesn't feel like Jesus could love the kind of person he is. Have you ever felt this way? What kinds of things might make us feel Jesus can't love the kind of person we are? What examples can you think of from Scripture to counter this belief?
14. Moore's technique of using two storylines, one from the past and a current day story, lent further mystery to the book. Would you like to have seen more interweaving between the storylines? Was there a connection, in your opinion? If so, what was it?
15. If Beth Moore was present for this discussion, what would you ask her?