

Discussion Questions

1. Laurel has been trying to let go of the guilt she feels over what happened when she put Morton Wilmington in prison five years ago. Does Laurel ever release her guilt? How? Can guilt be a good thing or lead to a good consequence? If you were in Laurel's shoes, what steps would you take to turn the guilt into something good?
2. As a police officer, Daniel is used to taking charge and finding the answers himself. Why is he so reluctant to work with the FBI? Is his attitude justified? Why or why not? What makes him change his mind about interagency cooperation?
3. Daniel's grandfather, Earl Hilton, lives with Alzheimer's, a disease that affects more than 5 million Americans and their caregivers. Is there someone in your life who has received this diagnosis? What sort of day-to-day challenges do caregivers face? How can you show love and compassion to dementia patients and their families?
4. For years, the FBI has been investigating a scam targeting the elderly, and Laurel feels desperate enough to bargain with a criminal, even offering to shorten his sentence if he cooperates. What's behind her motivation for making such a plea? Is this a reasonable risk for her to take? What are the potential pitfalls in her plan?
5. Have you or someone you loved ever been robbed or taken advantage of in some way? How did it change your life or theirs? What precautions can you take, or advise your loved ones to take, to avoid a scam like the one in the story?
6. Morton Wilmington claims to have turned his life around since being imprisoned. Based on his actions and words at the beginning of the story, would you have trusted him? Is there a point where your feelings toward him begin to change?
7. Abby Hilton is a woman of action, facing challenges with faith and resolve. But "the more she trusted [God], the more the devil tossed her way." Have you found this to be true in your own life? What do you do when the circumstances before you threaten to overwhelm you?
8. From an early age, Laurel was told that one day she would have to surrender to her need for God. What are some of the false gods people hold on to before reaching their breaking points? What have you held on to in your life and what was your breaking point?
9. After years of silence, Daniel comes to a crossroads in his relationship with his mom. Does his conversation with her go the way you expected it to? How does Daniel honor God in what he says?
10. As a teenager, Abby ran away from home and straight into a horrible situation. Eventually she had the courage to escape from her living nightmare. What lessons does Laurel take away from Abby's past? Are you living with the consequences of a bad choice, or do you know

someone who is? What encouragement can you find in Abby's story?

11. In chapter 44, Daniel dismisses the idea that he should be working as a detective. He says, "Right now this is what God wants me to do. . . . My significance is in being available for whatever's needed." Describe a time when you could say this about your life. Have you ever said no to an opportunity that, to an outsider, seemed like a no-brainer? What did you learn from that experience?
12. At the climax of the story, Laurel is caught in the crosshairs of a showdown. Were you surprised by what happened next? Do you believe the motives behind the actions were genuine?