

Unforgiving Reading Guide

MAKES YOU GO HMMM!

Now that you have read *Unforgiving*, consider the following discussion questions.

1. Although he didn't love her, Joel initially decided to stay with Zarah because she was pregnant. Do you think that was the right decision? Why or why not?
2. Joel has established quite a track record, one lined with an abundance of successes and failures. He seems to be serious about restoring his relationship with God and turning away from his pursuit of power and fame. Do you believe his commitment to change is sincere?
3. At times, members of the Mitchell family are out of control. Based only on *Unforgiving*, which Mitchell would benefit the most from psychological therapy? Tamara, Madeline, Zarah, Sherry, or Joel?
4. Is Joel and Sheba's relationship finally over, or will he find a way to maintain their "unconventional friendship"? If you believe they're truly platonic friends, is it okay for them to stay in contact? Throughout the series, did you ever think that Joel and Sheba's relationship would get serious? Why or why not?
5. Who do you think will get married (in the church) first? Don or Joel? Why?
6. Is it realistic for Joel to believe that Zarah's love for him is so strong that she will truly be able to walk away from her religion and accept Christianity? How long will her conversion last?
7. Although intent on getting Joel appointed as CEO, Madeline actually had five options for filling the CEO position: herself, Abigail, Joel, Tamara, and outside candidates. Who was your choice to replace Don and why?
8. Who's your favorite character and why? (Note: base your answer on any title in the series.)

9. As the Mitchell family drama series winds down (or so we think), what do you believe is going to happen to each character? You probably have your own list of scenarios to ponder. If not, here are some questions to consider. Do you see Don actually getting married? Will the hold that the Mitchells have on Abigail draw her back to DMI? Will the company fall apart again under Joel's watch, and will Don be forced to come back yet again? Will Joel get involved with Uncle Frank's shady dealings when financial decisions don't go his way at DMI?

10. It's quite a feat to have the Mitchell clan on a twenty-hour flight together. Do you think they will still be thrilled and happy when they arrive in South Africa, or will old wounds cause someone to act out on the plane and plunge the trip into disaster?

11. Will Madeline or Sherry remarry? If so, to what kind of guy(s)?

12. Let's say the Mitchell family drama series is being made into a movie, and you are the casting director. Who would you select to play Madeline, Sherry, Don, Joel, Abigail, Zarah, and Tamara?

13. At the core of the Mitchell family's discord is an unwillingness to forgive. Regardless of how much money, power, and influence they possess, it doesn't help them fix their family issues. Don understands the freedom that comes from forgiveness early in the series. It looks like others have finally come around too. How about you? Is there anyone you are estranged from or have been unwilling to forgive? Forgiveness doesn't mean that you endorse their betrayal, hurtfulness, or violation. Forgiveness means that you are no longer willing to let that infraction provoke a negative reaction from you. Forgiveness is liberating, and it's the best gift you can give to yourself, as well as to someone else.

Note: The Mitchell family drama is loosely based on the story of a mighty biblical warrior, King David, who had God's unprecedented favor and a profound purpose. However, King David was also plagued with family problems, personal failures, and sinful mistakes. Because he was able to forgive those who had wronged him and to go the extra step of forgetting (letting go of) the pain, the anguish, and the bitterness associated with mistakes of the past, he was at peace regardless of what was going on around him.