

WHEN

MOUNTAINS

MOVE



... a little more ...

When a delightful concert comes to an end,

the orchestra might offer an encore.

When a fine meal comes to an end,

it's always nice to savor a bit of dessert.

When a great story comes to an end,

we think you may want to linger.

And so, we offer ...

AfterWords—just a little something more after you

have finished a David C Cook novel.

We invite you to stay awhile in the story.

Thanks for reading!

Turn the page for ...

- **Discussion Questions**
 - **Writing Prompts**
 - **Acknowledgments**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Millie makes the right decision by marrying Bump? What makes some marriages stick while so many others fall apart, and what would you advise a young couple wanting to get married today? If you are not married, what do you expect of marriage and a spouse?

2. What do you think about Millie's decision not to tell anyone about the rape? So many victims of sexual violence never report the incident, and like Millie, many victims feel as if they have no voice. Why do you think this is the case? What can we do as a society to support people who become victims of violent acts?

3. When it's time for Millie and Bump to leave Mississippi, Millie realizes she is loved by many: Janine, Mr. Tucker, Mabel, Camille, even Diana. Who are those special people in your own life? Is there someone you know who might need such a person in his/her life?

4. As Millie enters her new marriage, she struggles to develop a fully open and trusting intimacy with Bump. She also resists the urge to tell him why this is the case. Although Millie has been determined not to repeat the mistakes of her parents, how is she continuing certain cycles of dysfunction? Have you ever hurt someone you loved when your intentions were to protect them or shield them from a truth you thought would hurt them more? Is



there anything your loved ones could tell you that would make you love them less?

5. In Colorado, Millie and Bump are met with many challenges. How does this experience bring them closer? Tear them apart? What are some of the most challenging situations you've ever had? Have you missed big opportunities because you were afraid of change or afraid to fail?

6. When Kat and Millie become friends, Millie admires Kat and wants to be like her in certain ways. Do you have a friend you admire? Have you ever been jealous of a friend? Have you ever been deceived by a friend? Eventually Millie realizes Kat is not a good friend after all. Millie is hurt by that betrayal but still does the right thing when Kat needs help. If you were in Millie's situation, would you have sent your husband to help Kat?

7. Millie becomes convinced her husband is having an affair with her only friend. What's the worst thing your partner or friend has ever done to hurt you? Were you able to forgive? And likewise, how have you hurt the ones you love? Have they forgiven you? If you haven't had to deal with infidelity, how do you think you would handle learning your spouse is having an affair?

8. Millie's grandmother, Oka, serves as the voice of reason in this book. Do you like Oka? What did you learn from Oka's character? What did you learn from her Choctaw stories? How important is the grandparent/child relationship in your family?



9. Millie admires Oka's strength, beauty, talent, and wisdom. How has Oka managed to survive traumatic events in her life and still have such a sweet, genuine spirit? What does Oka teach Millie about forgiveness and grace?

10. When Millie first meets Oka, she notices Oka is Catholic when she makes the sign of the cross after her prayer. Oka mentions she grew up around the missionaries, as did many who are members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw. Do you think Oka is a Christian? How do you think her faith impacts her life, and what do you think of the smudging scene at the end of the book? Do you think we may have more in common across varying religious practices than we sometimes believe?

11. Throughout the first section of this book, Millie is forced to make a terrible decision when she learns she is carrying Bill Miller's child. What would you do if you found yourself in such a situation? What if your young daughter was in that situation? Where do you stand on the issue of abortion and what circumstances might make you feel differently? Have you ever had an abortion? How would you handle the situation if you were put there again? Have you ever adopted a child in need of a family?

12. At one point, Millie feels as if there is no right choice at all. Any route she takes brings pain to someone. We like to divide life into black and white categories, but sometimes life is messy and there is no perfect solution. Have you ever been in such a situation? Have you ever made a decision you regretted? How have you forgiven



yourself for a bad choice? And how have you learned to move past that mistake and make the most of your new situation?

13. Near the end, Millie is given a second chance to choose her first love, River. Were you glad when River showed up to fight for Millie? How did you feel when Millie kissed River? How did you feel when you realized Bump saw this kiss? Were you glad when Bump finally fought for Millie too? Have you ever had to choose between two loves? What would you do if you were given a second chance to choose again?

14. What do you think about the way the book ends? What is the significance of the mountain lion throughout the book? How does nature have its way again and again in Millie's life?

15. In the end, Bump tells Millie he has always been on her side. Do you have someone in your life like Bump, who loves you through and through? Does such perfect love exist outside of a novel? Why do you think so many people struggle to find healthy relationships?

16. What do you think will happen next for Millie and Bump and Isabel? What will happen to the other characters?



WRITING PROMPTS

1. When writing this book, I actually wrote six or seven different endings before settling on this one. Pretend you are the author. Write a different ending to this story.
2. Pretend you are one of the characters in this book. Write a journal from that point of view. Now choose another character and repeat. How do the entries compare/contrast?
3. What would you want to happen next to the characters of this book? Write the first chapter of the next book in this series.
4. Choose one crucial scene in this book and rewrite it with a different result. For example, rewrite the wedding scene so that Millie and Bump do not end up getting married. Or the root-cellar scene so that Fortner agrees to give Millie what she wants. Consider the birth scene, the scene at the fencerow when Bump learns of the pregnancy, the confrontation with River, etc.
5. Write a letter to the author about your reaction to the book. I love hearing from readers.
6. Discuss the theme of nature, faith, forgiveness, or love from the book.



7. Compare and contrast character pairs from *Into the Free* and *When Mountains Move*. For example, how do Mabel and Oka compare? Diana and Kat? River and Bump? Sloth and Fortner? Mr. Tucker and Sheriff Halpin?

Find more ideas for book clubs, teachers, readers, and more by visiting www.juliecantrell.com

NOTES

Chapter 1

“Who Wouldn’t Love You?” © 1942 Kay Kyser.

“There Are Such Things,” lyrics by George W. Meyer, Stanley Adams, and Abel Baer © 1942 Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.

Chapter 3

“Dearly Beloved,” lyrics by Jerome Kern and Johnny Mercer, from the film *You Were Never Lovelier*, directed by William A. Seiter (Los Angeles: Columbia Pictures, 1942).

Chapter 4

“Taking a Chance on Love,” lyrics by Vernon Duke, Ted Fetter, and John Latouche © 1940 EMI Music Publishing.

Chapter 7

Tender is the Night © 1934 F. Scott Fitzgerald, originally published by Charles Scribner’s Sons.

Chapter 9

“It Can’t Be Wrong,” lyrics by Max Steiner and Kim Gannon © 1942.

Chapter 19

“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by William Wordsworth, originally published in 1807.

“It Is Well with My Soul,” lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford © 1873.

Chapter 20

This Side of Paradise © 1920 F. Scott Fitzgerald, originally published by Charles Scribner’s Sons.

Chapter 21

Casablanca, directed by Michael Curtiz (Warner Brothers, 1942).

Chapter 23

Winesburg, Ohio © 1919 Sherwood Anderson, originally published by B. W. Huebsch & Co., New York and London.

The Sun Also Rises © 1926 Ernest Hemingway, originally published by Charles Scribner’s Sons.

WHEN MOUNTAINS MOVE

The Great Gatsby © 1925 F. Scott Fitzgerald, originally published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Little Women © 1868 and 1869 Louisa May Alcott, originally published by Roberts Brothers.

Chapter 31

This Side of Paradise © 1920 F. Scott Fitzgerald, originally published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Chapter 33

Thoughts Moral and Divine, Wellins Calcott, originally published 1761.