



Fallen Women

By Sandra Dallas

Discussion Questions:

1. How do Mick and Beret initially react to each other? What assumptions do they make and what are they surprised by as they get to know each other?
2. Were you surprised by the second and then third murder? Did you have any guesses or theories as to who committed them? Did your theories change over the course of the story?
3. Throughout the novel Beret makes observations about Denver as compared to New York City. What are they? What role does setting play in the story?
4. As readers we only get to know Lillie through what other people say about her, and Beret has a vastly different perception of Lillie than other characters. What do you think the most accurate description is?
5. On page 48, "Beret found herself hating Lillie and thinking her sister deserved what she'd gotten, then loving the golden child who had once looked at her with awe and trust." Beret struggles with complex feelings of anger, guilt, sadness, and love in the wake of Lillie's death. How do you think these feelings affect her decisions and actions? What would you have done in Beret's place?
6. At what points in the story do you see key shifts in the relationship between Beret and Mick?
7. What are the various meanings behind the title *Fallen Women*?
8. There are many times when Beret and other characters comment on how different the two sisters are. How do Beret's idea of their similarities and differences compare or contrast to the ideas of the other characters? Do you think that Beret and Lillie are similar in any way?
9. How did you react to learning the true identity of the murderer?
10. So many of the characters in this novel make dangerous decisions and keep their own or other people's dark secrets, but for a variety of reasons. What motivates the different characters, including Varina, Judge Stanton, William, Lillie, and Jonas, to act as they do?