



MY SISTER DILLY

Discussion Questions

1. My Sister Dilly is a “sister” book. It’s obvious during the course of the story that Hannah and Dilly do love each other, but they often don’t see things the same way. Do you have sisters? Can you relate to having ups and downs, close times and otherwise, with your sister?
2. While Hannah still prefers city life, she realizes the small town she left behind has a greater sense of community than the big city she misses. What are some of the advantages of living in a small town? Disadvantages?
3. Dilly made one terrible mistake that landed her in prison, rather than a series of mistakes that culminated by imprisonment. If you could imagine yourself in her position, how do you think you would deal with the idea of losing your freedom, to be sentenced with a population of people also being punished for their actions?
4. Although some of the actions of the advocates for people with disabilities are taken to extreme in this story, did you as the reader find yourself understanding the reason for such a group to exist?
5. Did you find yourself understanding why Dilly was driven to do what she attempted to do, or do you think a loving mother would never let herself get so depressed that she’d consider such drastic measures?
6. Do you think a balance can be reached between letting a person isolate if they have family challenges, and being available if needed? How would you let someone know you’re really there to help, beyond just another “How-are-you-today-I’m-fine” interchange?
7. How do you feel about persons with disabilities? Are you afraid of them? Uncomfortable around them? Do you think you could do what Hannah thought she should have done, step up and help out in the care of her disabled niece, even though she didn’t think she was capable?

8. Why do you think God has allowed physicians the knowledge and ability to save children's lives with such profound disabilities, and yet a complete cure is still impossible, allowing life with such severe limitations?
9. Do you think Dilly's former mother-in-law was right to try keeping Dilly away from Sierra? Do you think she did it out for love for Sierra, or spite against Dilly?
10. Do you think it's possible for a man and woman to be "just friends" the way Hannah first defined her relationship with Mac? If either one of them would have married someone else, do you think they could have maintained their friendship?
11. Mac was willing to leave the city and live in a small town in the Midwest with Hannah. Do you think their marriage could have worked if Hannah refused to return to California?
12. Farming played a part in this book. Are there things about farming that surprised you? The GPS system? That hog manure pits are deadly? What else do you know about farming that might surprise others?
13. While completely fiction, this book was inspired by true events. How did it feel to be reminded there are real people out there who've made the kind of mistakes Dilly made?