

MEG MOSELEY

when
sparrows
fall

a novel



Readers Guide

1. Who are the sparrows of the title? How many physical or spiritual falls did you notice, including those that happened before the story opens?
2. Jack wants freedom for Miranda's children, starting with good literature to open their hearts and minds to a wider world. Which works of fiction have changed your perspective on life?
3. Do you think Miranda homeschools for the right reasons? If you could give her only one message or ask her only one question about her choices, what would it be?
4. Even the most fiercely protective parents can't, and maybe shouldn't, shield their children from every danger. When does a parent cross the line from protection to over protection?
5. Timothy, at twelve, is the man of the house, and he resents Jack for stepping in. What developments help Timothy let go of his too-large responsibilities and allow him to be a kid again?
6. When Carl told Miranda to do things that violated her conscience, how could she have persuaded him that being the head of the house didn't necessarily make him a good decision maker?
7. Victims of spiritual abuse often experience anger, depression, and a loss of faith when they attempt to break away from their abusers. When Miranda couldn't pray or enjoy reading her Bible anymore, did she have other options for rekindling her faith?
8. Spiritual abuse can be subtle, leaving no physical evidence. Should an outsider ever dismiss or diminish a victim's experience because there's little evidence?

9. Jack and Miranda fall in love within a fairly short time. What experiences or personality traits may have primed them to warm up to each other so quickly?
10. The fact that Jack is uncomfortable with a “word from God” shows that he takes such things more seriously than he claims to. Even if the elderly preacher isn’t a prophet, how might Jack still benefit from the old man’s exhortation?
11. What leads Miranda to think she can’t hear from God? Are there any events she might interpret as being divine guidance?
12. Which of Miranda’s new freedoms do you think mean the most to her?
13. As a photographer, Miranda is aware of perspective and focus. What changes her focus and perspective on life? Could she have made the journey to freedom without help from friends like Jack and Yvonne?
14. Can you be a friend to someone like Miranda? Or are you a Miranda in need of a friend?