

*"Suspenseful yet uplifting,
this story proves that what
is buried in the past never
stays buried forever."*

—JAMES ROLLINS,
New York Times best-selling
author of *The Doomsday Key*



FORGET ME NOT

A Novel

VICKI
HINZE

READERS GUIDE

1. “Even when we forget who we are, at core level we remember whose we are.” That belief prompted author Vicki Hinze to write *Forget Me Not*.¹ What core-level memory do you feel you could never forget? Why? Do you think bad memories are more easily recalled than good ones?
2. Do you believe forgiving means forgetting? The Bible states that repentance washes away our sins and that God no longer remembers them.² Are human beings capable of that kind of forgiveness without God’s help? Have you struggled with not being able to forget what you thought you had forgiven? Are there times when not forgetting is constructive?
3. Would it be a blessing to be able to forget parts of your past? Or do you believe it takes all of those parts—good and bad—to be

1. To see what the Bible says about these things, you can begin by reading the following Scriptures from the New International Version (NIV): “Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning’” (Exodus 20:20).
2. “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

the person you have become? Why? If you could wipe your memory clean and start over, how would you construct your life differently?

4. Do specific names evoke a specific emotion in you? If you could choose your name, what would it be? Why would you choose it?
5. The heroine in *Forget Me Not* is a woman of serene faith. It gives her certainty and calm in horrific circumstances. What has brought you calm and certainty in troubled times?
6. Much has been written about the power of prayer. What, to you, is the greatest benefit of individual prayer? Is a group united in prayer for a specific purpose more or less powerful than individual prayer?³
7. Kelly is warned that “some people are the opposite of what they appear to be.”⁴ Have you found this to be true? What about people of great wealth, like Gregory, who endowed inspiring works of art, gave prestigious scholarships, and benefited charities? Can people who do these things yet live dissolute personal lives be redeemed? Can enduring humanitarian works help erase the personal harm done by an unbelieving, evil, or corrupt personality? Or must that redemption be made solely through repentance and God’s grace through Jesus Christ?

3. “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:19).

4. “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

8. We all have challenges and bear burdens. Matthew 11:28 inspired the entire Crossroads Crisis Center series of books.⁵ In times of trouble and burdens, has your relationship with God given you rest? Has that aided you in coping with your challenges? resolving your conflicts? easing your burdens?
9. Ben and Kelly are wealthy people. Is it harder, do you think, to be a rich or a poor Christian?⁶ What makes it harder or easier? Do material possessions impact a person's inner life at all?
10. Repeatedly, Kelly hears God's instruction: *Be patient with him*. She listens and tries, but it isn't always easy. Is being patient difficult for you? What experiences have led you to trust in God's perfect timing?⁷
11. Ben had a loving, content marriage. As a widower, he had challenges starting over in a new romance. If you suffered such a loss, what would encourage you to try again? What would discourage you?
12. Kelly was orphaned, abused, and mistreated. Often in abuse cases, those abused become abusers. Yet she did not. Neither did

5. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
6. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God'" (Matthew 19:23–24).
7. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

she grow bitter or engage in destructive self-pity. Instead, she made God her escape plan from the abuse and learned to pray. She relied on Him, and as an adult she commits to helping others stay safe. That is this story's tie to Matthew 11:28.⁸ Did her reliance on God, her trust in Him, break the cycle so often present in abuse cases?⁹

13. Have you experienced situations like Kelly's where you felt the hand of God at work in your life?¹⁰ If so, please explain.

8. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

9. "When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'" (Mark 10:14).

10. "You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear" (Deuteronomy 7:19).