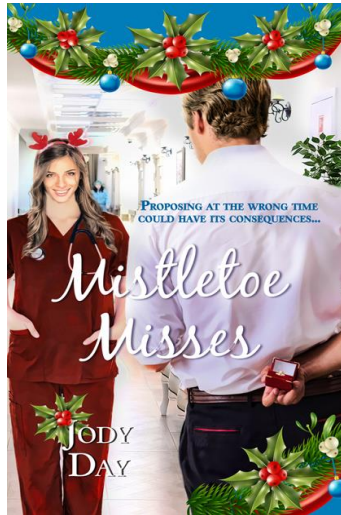


Discussion Questions



MISTLETOE MISSES

2021 Christmas Extravaganza

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About the Book

Concert pianist Evan finally receives his big break. He's on tour playing his passion and getting paid well to do it, he's in love with a beautiful woman who just finished her own degree in nursing, and he's about to propose in extravagant style. Even though their relationship has been long distance, he plans to go home and start his new life with her.

The virus lockdown skews all his plans.

Risé is working and living at a hospital with acutely ill patients. The precautions in place preclude any interaction with her family, with her friends, and with the man she is hoping will be her husband. How can he be, when no one knows how long this pandemic will last?

Health protocols, full personal protection regalia, social distancing, and video-chatting aren't enough. How can their relationship hold when the world is falling apart? With wise words from those who love them, Evan and Risé find that being apart is hard, but with God, all things are possible.

TITLE: Mistletoe Misses

Discussion:

Question 1: 1. Evan and Rise' both had important plans curtailed because of the virus (and you did, likely, as well). In light of Jeremiah 29:11, how should we handle this?

Answer 1: At first, Evan and Rise' seemed to go with the flow as far as their plans, (except Evan and his desire to propose). Later stress set in and caused problems for them. If we try to keep God's promise that he has plans to prosper us and not harm us, then we can learn to trust him in the upheaval.

Question 2: 2. Rise' felt responsible for her father's health and for Evan's as well. Her determined drive to protect them caused her stress and worry, and a division in their relationships. Wisdom and caution is always important, but who is our protector?

Answer 2: Isaiah 41:10 admonishes to be strong and not fear. God promises to protect us and promises that he will never leave us or forsake us.

Question 3: 3. The virus atmosphere just seems to drag on and on in the story. Evan is highly motivated to propose to Rise' and get married, but is forced to wait because of her preoccupation with her job and the fact that she won't come near him. What does the Bible say about patience?

Answer 3: Romans 12:12 seems to say that while we're trying to be patient in tribulation, we should also hope, and be in constant prayer

Question 4: 4. Even though Rise' wanted her father to stay in the house and avoid any social contact, he still went out every day to serve. He pulled Evan into service as well; they delivered meals and entertainment – from a distance – to the elderly in their neighborhood.

Answer 4: What does Phil. 2:4 suggest to us in the area of service, particularly during hard times?

Question 5: 5. Rise' found herself in considerable danger because of her ex-fiance'. How does this go along with his promise to protect us?

Answer 5: God never promised we wouldn't have problems, trials, or even tragedy. We live in an unredeemed world. But he does promise strength, wisdom, and ultimate deliverance. Romans 8:18.

Question 6: 6. Evan was astounded at George's ability to forgive Jeff for what he did to Rise'. We all know we are to forgive, but how can we do that when the offense is so egregious?

Answer 6: Our heavenly father is compassionate and slow to anger, abounding in love and does not treat us as our sins deserve. He forgave and bids us to do the same. He understands our human condition, and we just have to keep asking for a change of heart, which his grace will cover. Psalm 103:8

Question 7: 7. The theme of Mistletoe Misses is trust. The world completely changed with the virus, but what did Topsy tell Rise' that ministered so much to her heart?

Answer 7: God hasn't changed. Praise the Lord, he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The world can rage on and on, but our heavenly Father loves us with an everlasting love. His promises have not changed.

Question 8: 8. Rise' lost her first patient soon after her first position began. She had to continue to do her job when her emotions failed her. How can we have the strength to push through when our hearts are broken?

Answer 8: . Psalm 34:18 tells us that God is close to the broken-hearted. He is with us when we have to consider others interests as well as our own, as in Rise's case. He gives us the strength to be strong. (Phil. 2:4)

Question 9: 9. Evan had to be creative in proposing to Rise' and finally found a way. I might not have been the moment they'd dreamed of, but the results were the same. How can we relate to this situation in regard to trusting God.

Answer 9 Proverbs 3:5-6 Our trust results in God directing our path. As the worship song says, "so much better your way" (Defender/Bethel).

Question 10: 10. Evan and Rise' finally decided to get married. The virus chaos was far from over, but they learned to trust God and get on with their lives. Is there an area of your life where you need to surrender and trust God?

Answer 10: . Personalize these verses: I will trust in the Lord with all my heart, and I will NOT lean on my understanding (of my circumstances or situation). In all my ways I will acknowledge him, and he promises to direct my path. (Prov. 3:5-6) The Lord says he has plans for me, plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

