



Martin Sloane

A Novel

by Michael Redhill

Reading Group Guide

1. Discuss Martin and Jolene's first meeting. What draws her to him and to eventually fall in love with him, both as a man and as an artist? Does their age difference affect their relationship?
2. What happens the night Molly visits Jolene in Indiana? Why does Martin then leave, never to return?
3. Why does Jolene go to Ireland to search for Martin Sloane at a point in her life when she finally moves past her relationship with Martin and is with a new love?
4. On page 177, Martin's father takes Martin to a church and tells him, "You're entitled to God's protection, no matter what your mother says, and refusing the gift of His love is as bad as succumbing to temptation. . . That's something that's between you and me and God, you understand, for always." How does this experience affect the young Martin?
5. Do you think Martin's childhood experiences - with his illness, of his move to Galway, and then to Canada while his father stayed behind - had any effect on his relationship with Jolene?
6. How has Jolene's mother's death affected Jolene's adult life? Does it relate to or influence her decision to later search for Martin Sloane?
7. Each chapter begins with a description of Martin Sloane's artwork. How do these descriptions relate to the chapters that follow and to the overall book?
8. The character and artwork of Martin Sloane was originally inspired by Joseph Cornell, a collage/sculpture artist from New York, active during the first half of the 20th century. If you have seen Cornell's art, does it affect how you read the character? How do you feel about fiction inspired by historical characters?
9. The book *Martin Sloane* makes references to James Joyce's writings in its settings and characterizations. How does this affect your read of *Martin Sloane*, if at all?
10. What was this story about for you? The search for love? For friendship? The meaning of memory? Of art? How do you feel about the author creating the character Martin Sloane as an absence in the novel?
11. Discuss the book's ending. What does it mean? Is it satisfying?