



Uncharted by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Angela Hunt writes parables, or “earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.” In what ways is this story a parable? What are some objects that clearly represent one thing in the story and something else in the “big picture”?
2. Susan Brantley Dodson is beautiful. Psychological studies have shown that beautiful people often have an edge over people who aren’t as physically well-favored. What does Susan do with her beauty? What could she have done with it?
3. Read the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-9. In what way is this parable applicable to the characters in *Uncharted*?
4. Jesus told another parable that greatly influenced the writing of *Uncharted*. Did you recognize it in the story? (Hint: see Luke 16:19-31).
5. George Eliot, the English novelist whose real name was Mary Ann Evans, once wrote, “He said he should prefer not to know the sources of the Nile, and that there should be some unknown regions preserved as hunting-grounds for the poetic imagination” (*Middlemarch*). In what way does Hunt explore an unknown “hunting ground” in this story?
6. According to Luke 8:17, “For everything that is hidden or secret will eventually be brought to light and made plain to all.” How does this verse relate to the story? Do you think this applies to unbelievers only, or to believers as well?
7. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the Greek word for the rich man’s destination is not *hell*, but *Hades*. There is a difference. Hell is the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels after the Judgment (Matt. 25:41); Hades is the waiting place where unbelievers await judgment. Walter Elwell said that Scripture speaks of hell as a place where there is nothing good, only the misery and torment of an evil conscience. Hell is the complete and deserved separation from God and from all that is pure, holy, and beautiful. How is this idea illustrated in the story?

8. Do you find it odd that Lisa Melvin, who attended church regularly and lived an apparently "virtuous" life, finds herself in the same position as serial killer Mark Morris? Do you think he will be punished equally or more severely at the final judgment?
 9. Has this novel changed your outlook in any way? Will it make a difference in how you live your life?
 10. If you could ask the author any question, what would it be?
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