

THE NETWORK

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READING GROUP GUIDE

1. Jack and Taylor have a complicated back story. Do you think it's possible to trust someone again after they have so deeply wounded you?
2. In this novel, the media and entertainment worlds have a great deal of power to influence people. To what extent do you think this actually occurs?
3. The book poses many ethical questions regarding issues that tend to polarize people, like euthanasia and sanctity of life. Are these issues presented in an objective fashion or do you think the story is intended to shape opinions on these issues?
4. Maya's story from the 1970's later dovetails with the current storyline. Do you think the decisions she made had a big influence on the current story?
5. In the book, the coins are said to have healing powers that can be "deactivated" or neutralized by a priest. Do you believe that objects can have such powers (for example, that wearing a medal or a rosary or a crystal can "protect" the person wearing it, or that having an object blessed by a priest can give it religious energy)?
6. While in captivity, Maya explains the changes within her: a return to her religious faith and her regret that until then she had been person who only believed in the power of science. How would you describe your position regarding the power of science and its advancements vis-à-vis your religious beliefs?
7. Maya is contemplating suicide when she hears her mother's voice in her head: "Life is sacred. God has a purpose for each of us." Do you believe that every life is sacred and that everyone has a purpose? If so, does this include Damon and the Nazi scientists who were helping him with his evil goals?
8. Carl explains that his religious beliefs are "intricately wound up" in his medical/philosophical views and that free speech entitles him to share his views as an educator. What is your opinion about this? Should any person in a position of power (teachers, politicians, doctors, scientists, media) be entitled to insert their religious beliefs and moral values in their profession? Where do you draw the line?
9. How much of an influence do you think lobbyists, politicians, and corporations have on our moral values?
10. What is your feeling about scientific advancements and the belief of some people that we are trying to play God? Has the book influenced your opinion on these issues?

