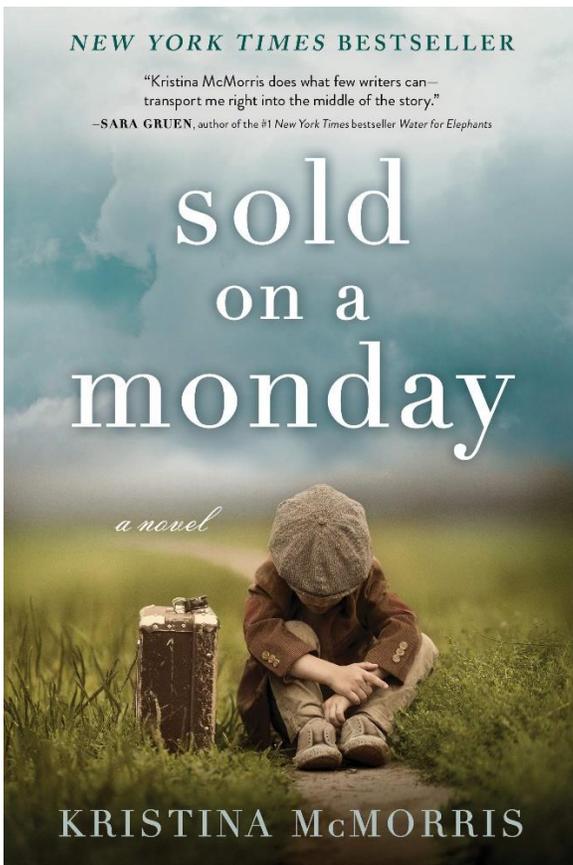


## A Reader's Guide

### Sold On A Monday

Author: Kristina McMorris

Subject: Historical/Family Life Fiction



### Summary

From New York Times bestselling author Kristina McMorris comes an unforgettable novel inspired by a stunning piece of history. **2 CHILDREN FOR SALE** The sign is a last resort. It sits on a farmhouse porch in 1931, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs and broken dreams. It could have been written by any mother facing impossible choices. For struggling reporter Ellis Reed, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family's dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not meant for publication. But when it leads to his big break, the consequences are more devastating than he ever imagined. At the paper, Lillian Palmer is haunted by her role in all that happened. She is far too familiar with the heartbreak of children deemed unwanted. As the bonds of motherhood are tested, she and Ellis must decide how much they are willing to risk to mend a fractured family. Inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation, **SOLD ON A**

MONDAY is a powerful novel of love, redemption and the unexpected paths that bring us home

## Conversation Starters

1. In the prologue, the unidentified narrator reflects upon the interwoven paths that had delivered each of us here. Every step a domino essential to knocking over the next.? After reading the book, do you agree with that view? Do you recall any notable incident that wasn't integral to the final outcome?
2. At the Royal, Max Trevino makes a difficult decision regarding his sister. Do you agree with his choice? Do you believe he intended to stick with the plan he proposed?
3. Early in the story, Lily carries a burden of shame and guilt regarding her son, due to societal norms and her own dark secret. Would you have felt the same in her shoes? Would you, or Lily, feel differently in present times?
4. People deal with grief in various, sometimes extreme ways. How do you feel about the manner in which Sylvia Millstone and Ellis's father, Jim Reed, came to grips with the loss of a child? Do you sympathize with them equally? What are your thoughts on Alfred Millstones choices and actions?
5. Throughout the story, Lily struggles to balance motherhood and work. Do you believe her career ambitions were solely for the sake of her son's future? If not, would she ever admit this to herself or another person? Have these considerations changed in today's society?
6. On a mission to find and rescue Calvin, Lily and Ellis break several laws. Do you agree or disagree with their actions? Would you have done anything differently in their situation?
7. Which character became your favorite? Your least favorite? How did your opinions of the major characters change throughout the story?
8. Where do you envision the characters soon after the story ends? How about five years from now?

## About the Author

- Birth- November 21, 1974
- Where- Burien, Washington, U.S.A.
- Education- B.S. in International Marketing, Pepperdine University
- Currently- Lives in Oregon

**Kristina McMorris** is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling American author of five novels and two novellas. Inspired by true personal and historical accounts, her works of fiction have garnered more than twenty national literary awards, as well as a nomination for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award,<sup>[1]</sup> RWA's prestigious RITA Award,<sup>[2]</sup> and a Goodreads Choice Award for Best Historical Fiction. To date, her publishers have included Kensington Books, Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, and Sourcebooks Landmark.

## Early Life and Education

At age nine, she began creatively expressing herself when she embarked on a five-year stint as the host of an Emmy® and Ollie award-winning kids' television program. Being half Japanese, Kristina jokes that she discovered a genetic kinship with the camera early in life and continued to nurture that relationship by acting in many independent and major films while living in Los Angeles.

## Career

Kristina's extensive experience in media and events led her to becoming a professional emcee and contributing writer for *Portland Bride & Groom* magazine. Her previous writing background also includes ten years of directing public relations for an international conglomerate.

In 2001, deciding sleep was highly overrated, she compiled hundreds of her grandmother's favorite recipes for a holiday gift that quickly evolved into a self-published cookbook. With proceeds benefiting the Food Bank, *Grandma Jean's Rainy-Day Recipes* sold at such stores as Borders and was heavily featured in regional media. It was while gathering information for the book's biographical section when Kristina happened across the letters her grandfather mailed to his "sweetheart" during his wartime naval service—a collection that years later inspired McMorris to pen her first novel, a WWII love story titled *Letters from Home*.

Since her debut released in 2011, Kristina's published works have expanded to include the novels *Bridge of Scarlet Leaves*, *The Pieces We Keep*, and *The Edge of Lost*, in addition to her novellas in the anthologies *A Winter Wonderland* and *Grand Central*. Her forthcoming historical novel, *Sold on a Monday*, will be released September 2018. Rights to her books have also been sold to numerous foreign publishers, Readers Digest, Doubleday, the Literary Guild, and more.

A frequent guest speaker and workshop presenter, McMorris holds a B.S. in International Marketing from Pepperdine University. For her diverse achievements, she has been named one of Portland's "Forty Under 40" by *The Business Journal*. She is still sleep deprived but eagerly working on her next novel.