

# Midday Book Club

---



## STUDY QUESTIONS *MADMAN* by Tracy Groot

1. Every novel is told from a point of view which is deliberate, in this case largely from that of characters who knew the madman before and after his possession, primarily from Tallis's point of view. What is the advantage of this point of view? How would the story be different if it were told from a different point of view, say that of the madman?
2. One reviewer comments that Kardus (the madman) remains too much on the sidelines of Tallis's story. Do you agree? Disagree? Why or why not? Think about the characterization of the madman—is it successful and compelling? In what ways?
3. Much as Lew Wallace did in *Ben Hur*, Jesus as a character appears late and although that scene is dramatic, He is on stage mostly through suggestion and indirect presence, behind the scenes. Does this in any way diminish His power in the novel? What do you as a reader feel about the presence of Christ in this novel?
4. What do you think the author, Tracy Groot, is trying to accomplish in this novel?
5. For those of you who have been following this book club, how can you tell this novel is literary fiction versus commercial fiction (categories we have discussed several times)? How does it differ from popular level Biblical fiction which simply adds modern innovations and concepts to biblical characters or just retells actual Bible stories?
6. Why could the story of the Gadarene Demonic be considered one of the greatest love stories in the Bible?
7. What about the topic of spiritual warfare? Do you think it exists today?