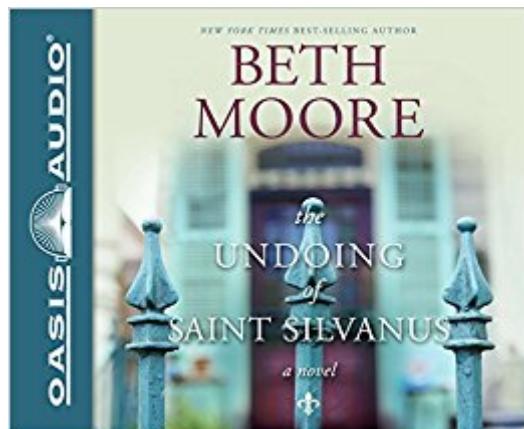


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The Undoing Of Saint Silvanus



Synopsis

Only God knew why Jillian Slater agreed to return to New Orleans on the news that her father had finally drunk himself to death. It's not like they were close. She hadn't seen him or her grandmother, the ice queen, in almost twenty years. But when Adella Atwater, the manager of her grandmother's apartment house, called and said her expenses would be paid if she could fly in for the burial, a free trip to New Orleans was too intriguing to resist. What Adella didn't tell her was that the apartment house wasn't a house at all and that whatever it was, it bore the dead weight of a long and painful history. As soon as Jillian meets the odd assortment of renters and realizes that her grandmother had no idea she was coming, she hatches a plan to escape. But the investigation into her father's death quickly unfolds and Jillian is drawn into the lives of the colorful collection of saints and sinners who pass through Saint Silvanus. She soon discovers there is more at stake than she ever imagined. Who is behind the baffling messages and the strange relics left on the steps? Is it possible that her family is actually cursed? Or is it just this crazy old house that holds them all under its spell? Jillian walks into a web of spiritual and personal danger borne out of her family's broken history, and despite Adella's wiliest efforts, only God himself can orchestrate the undoing of all that is going on at Saint Silvanus.

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Customer Reviews

Learning that her estranged father has been murdered, Jillian Slater travels to

post-*Hurricane Katrina* New Orleans and receives a glacial welcome from her grandmother Olivia. What starts as an awkward and unwanted visit on both sides turns into a journey of discovery for Jillian and the emotionally distant Olivia. As Jillian delves into her family's past, which revolves around their apartment house, the Saint Silvanus, a series of sinister events endangers her fledgling relationship with her grandmother. Someone wants revenge on her family, but they will gladly take it out on Jillian instead. Strong female protagonists dominate this novel, and memorable supporting characters provide levity and depth. The secondary story line of the origins of the curse on Saint Silvanus is overshadowed by the present-day portrayal of its residents. Verdict: Making her fiction debut, best-selling inspirational author Moore (*Audacious; Breaking Free*) delivers an absorbing, suspenseful read. Readers who prefer a story focused on finding faith through adversity will savor this beautifully written novel. (Library Journal) Moore's debut novel is certain to draw myriad readers familiar with her bestselling Bible studies (*The Law of Love*) and faith-based leadership guides and self-help books (*So Long, Insecurity*). Those who love her down-home Southern style will be pleased to find it in this tale set in New Orleans, where a former church is now an apartment building named Saint Silvanus, often referred to as Saint Sans. Olivia Fontaine faces the death of her only child, Raphael, with her usual iciness, but her reserve cracks when police discover Rafe was killed. Olivia's granddaughter comes to attend her father's funeral. Readers will come to love Saint Sans building manager Adella Atwater and the residents, as well as the NOPD cops who solve Rafe's murder. The novel is not without flaws . . . but it remains endearing and entertaining to the end. Moore's many fans will no doubt flock to her first work of fiction (Publishers Weekly) When the mysterious death of Jillian Slater's estranged father is deemed a possible murder, she heads to New Orleans in search of answers. She also needs to see her frosty grandmother, who owns a church building with a painful history. Saint Silvanus is now home to a hodgepodge of apartment residents and the ever-faithful apartment manager, Adella Atwater. As the murder case unfolds, strange objects begin appearing on the steps of Saint Silvanus, throwing the precarious household out of balance to the point that only a higher power can see them through a storm of suspicion, deceit, and absolution. In her fiction debut, beloved Christian speaker and author Moore dives into uncharted territory with gusto. Simultaneously heartwarming and chilling, this tale has wide appeal with its mix of mystery, evangelism, history, suspense, and love. Moore brings southern culture to life, and thoughtfully poses questions of belonging, sin, and self-worth. From its gritty start to its redemptive finish, Moore's ambitious first novel spotlights her gifts for humanizing the biblical experience and the search for faith. (Booklist) Well known Bible teacher

Moore blasts into the world of fiction with a page-turner that is personal, emotional, and spiritual. Enter the doors of an old church-turned-apartment house in New Orleans, a building with a dark presence since its formation. Jillian, the owner's estranged granddaughter, reluctantly stays there after her homeless father is discovered murdered. This California girl gets immersed in the foreign world of the Deep South, surrounded by strangers, and simultaneously becomes the next target in the murderer's vengeful plot. Each intrinsically written character adds much to the story, but Jesus is the ultimate hero. Murders, broken families, bitterness, abortion, and occultism all are a part of this story, but God redeems it all. Told through a woman's lens and primarily for a female audience, this story beautifully illustrates God's power and desire to crush strongholds and evil in all His children's lives. (Christian Market) In her anticipated fiction debut, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus*, Beth Moore weaves an introspective, genre-bending narrative. Moore, a popular author of Christian nonfiction and founder of Living Proof Ministries, tells the story of Jillian Slater, who travels to New Orleans after receiving news of her alcoholic father's death. Though it's a fast-paced story, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus* also contains moments of introspection both for Jillian and for the reader that are among its strongest scenes. Moore's vivid and often delightful descriptions of New Orleans, Saint Silvanus and the multiple supporting characters add a lively sense of place. The gripping mystery will keep readers engaged till the end, where Jillian finds both answers and a new relationship with God. (BookPage) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Best-selling book and Bible study author Beth Moore is a dynamic teacher whose conferences take her across the globe. She is a dedicated wife with two adult daughters and three delightful grandchildren. Beth lives in Houston, Texas, where she leads Living Proof Ministries with the purpose of encouraging and teaching women to know and love Jesus through the study of Scripture. Beth is one of the best-known women in the evangelical Christian arena. *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus* is her first work of fiction.

I was hooked by the end of the second chapter! In fact, I did absolutely nothing in my house until I reached the very end. I couldn't put it down! And if you're the least bit tender-hearted you might need a tissue or two somewhere around chapter 48 or 49 or 50! It's an emotional ride.

I absolutely loved this book. I have been a fiction reader my whole life and particularly like character driven stories with complex characters, unexpected emotional development, and rich contexts. This

book delivered on all of that. I sat down to read a bit and ended up reading the entire book in one chunk. I had read Beth's nonfiction work before and wasn't sure what to expect of a novel from her, but was AMAZED at how she's developed a spot on novelist cadence to the writing, tone, and development. I don't want to give away the story, but will say that I fell in love with several of the characters, laughed out loud at multiple parts, cried at multiple parts, and didn't want it to end. Regardless of whether you are a fiction reader, nonfiction reader, or have ever heard of the author, *The Undoing of Saint Silvanus* is absolutely worth your read. This is a story for anyone who has lived and laughed and feared and marveled. It's not cheap entertainment, but it is definitely entertaining. It's somewhat like going on a walk with a comfortable friend who tells you a story so engaging that you don't want the walk to end and then end up re-telling the story over and over to your friends. At the end of that walk you feel good for having gotten off the couch. This book will make you glad you opened it.

I am a great fan of Beth Moore's writing, and her venture out into fiction has made a big hit with me! Her sense of humor is seen on every page, and her commitment to excellence in writing is obvious. The novel is not in any way "preachy", but the gospel message comes across clearly as the characters are faced with devastating circumstances, and presented with the reality of a God Who can bring peace in the midst of chaos. Reconciliation and forgiveness are also big themes in this book....between friends, family and strangers! Great first novel, Beth!!! More, please!

Usually I read cozy mysteries, but decided to try this debut novel of Beth Moore, as I've read several of her nonfiction books and loved them. I'm glad I read this book! I enjoyed the whole unique story and didn't want to put it down. The quirky characters of Saint Sans quickly became friends. It is going to be hard now to find another book soon that I will like as much as I like this one. I hope there will be more novels coming from Beth Moore.

Very enjoyable! I laughed, I cried. The characters were interesting and realistically flawed and the story moved along at a good pace. There were elements of mystery, romance, family drama and redemption amidst an unlikely community of people. The setting is modern day New Orleans. I hope Beth Moore will write more novels - she tells a good story!

I'm not at all surprised that I loved this book. Beth Moore never disappoints. I rarely reread books because I feel like there are SO many books that I need to get my hands on, but this is one I would

be willing to read again. Such a great book to give to a loved one on the fence of God's Love because it isn't preachy or over - dramatized, it is the truth of Jesus' Love in the middle of our messes. 

I enjoyed the story line and suspense it garnered. I especially liked the interactions between the police and characters that lived in Saint Sans, and the growing faith, through the seeds planted, and the grace of God. The one thing I had trouble with was the second story line, with the pastor, when the building was a church. I couldn't figure out what happened and why it was part of this story. The only thing I could think of was perhaps it was to show why the church became an apartment building? I kept trying to find the connection between Olivia and the pastor, wanting some kind of ending. Other than that I really enjoyed the book and hope Beth Moore will keep writing fiction.

I don't exactly know what I was expecting, but as a reader of her Bible studies and nonfiction books, this was not what I was expecting in a novel by Beth Moore. That being said, I was so immersed in the story that over 400 pages seemed to fly by. There were some elements of the story that others have mentioned in their reviews that were surprising, but in the context of the story, the setting, and the journeys of the characters, it was not out of place in the story, and I don't feel like she was condoning it. I hope Beth Moore will continue to write fiction books in addition to her nonfiction books

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