

HAVE NO SHAME, by Melissa Foster

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Alison Tillman followed her heart down what, at that time, was a very dangerous path. If you had been her, would you have had the courage to do the same?
2. Maggie (one of my favorite characters) was a rebellious and confident woman, obviously a fearless leader in her own right to Alison without being pushy. If you were Maggie, would you have been strong enough to do the things she did, and would you have brought your shy younger sister into the fold? If not, why?
3. There are several themes that run through Alison and Jackson's story, such as family loyalty, courage, individuality. What other themes did you take away from HAVE NO SHAME, and what were your feelings on them?
4. Alison's mother was a surprise (to me as the author), do you think many women were like her in the mid 1960's?
5. In the end, Alison's father stepped up to the plate to back her up, showing his ability and ideal to put his love for his children above all else. How was this similar to Alison's decision?
6. The civil rights era was a time of fear, hope, courage, and sadly, death. How far do you feel we've come as a society, and how do you feel we still need to evolve?