

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Much of the action in the plot is impacted by the freezing weather. The temperatures are listed at the beginning of many of the chapters and the impacts of the cold on persons and nature are described in detail. Were you able to empathize with these situations? Have you experienced this type of freezing environment?
2. Arliss is Lola's supervisor and mentor, but they are good friends and act as partners. When Lola takes risks while chasing a suspect early in the book, Arliss is upset and disapproving. What are your thoughts on how this affects their relationship? Do you think his reactions are justified, and why? Do you believe that Lola's responses are reasonable, and why?
3. Before reading this book, what was your understanding of the Witness Protection Program as run by the US Marshals Service? Has your understanding of it changed since you read this book? How likely would you be to make the sacrifices required to enter the Witness Protection Program if your life was in danger? Would it be a different choice if it was the life of a family member?
4. A recurring theme in this book is motherhood. There are choices and actions made by three different mothers: Mim, Ursula, and Josie Lujan. What are your thoughts on their differing mothering styles?
5. What is your opinion about the state of Arliss and Mim's relationship? Was your opinion altered by the end of the book?
6. New information about Ursula as a mother is revealed in

- this book. Do you think she has changed as a mother over the years? How much trust should Arliss allow her?
7. Josie Lujan, Sam/Luke Trejo's mother, takes a risk to contact her son and see him in person. What do you think about their relationship, her choices and the way she treats him? Would you do the same? Why or why not?
 8. There are several villains portrayed in this book, both fugitive criminals and hired assassins. Some seem to be more "evil" in nature than others. What is your personal philosophy about the goodness of mankind? What are your thoughts on humans' tendency to do evil? Can people change, and how do they change?