

A DEADLY BUSINESS

A MIA QUINN MYSTERY

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WITH APRIL HENRY

READING GROUP GUIDE

1. Mia's work as a public prosecutor is extremely important and demanding, as is her work as a single mother of two. Have you ever struggled with work-life balance? Discuss the difficulty of doing well at work while also maintaining personal relationships.
2. When Charlie approaches Mia about the inconsistencies of her husband Scott's death, Mia says, "Let the dead bury the dead." Have you ever wanted to move on so badly that you didn't care to know the truth? Is knowing the truth about an event essential to coming to grips with it?
3. The justice system is the arena for Mia's work, yet she is often asking what justice is supposed to look like. How do you define justice? Is the point of justice punishment for wrongdoing? Rehabilitation for criminals? Preventing future crimes? All of these things?
4. Mia's discoveries in the basement make her believe that her whole life with Scott had been a lie. Have you ever experienced or discovered something that made you question the most foundational aspects of your life?
5. When handling the shopping cart case, Mia can't help but compare her own son to the teenagers involved. How does her

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- role as a mother affect her viewpoint and her actions? How would you have handled the case?
6. At many points during Mia's investigations, she feels that she is finding more questions than answers—and that truth itself is “as slippery as a silver bead of mercury.” Have you ever searched for the truth, only to come up empty-handed?
 7. While Mia works to prosecute criminals, her friend Eli works to defend them. In your opinion, which position would be more difficult, and why?
 8. Even though Mia is overwhelmed by responsibilities, she manages to make room for Kali and Eldon in her home. What makes her so sympathetic toward Kali and her circumstances?
 9. Scott's unethical accounting practices led him down a slippery—and eventually deadly—slope. Have you ever found yourself trying to justify smaller offenses, only to find yourself knee-deep in bigger ones?
 10. Hindsight is 20/20 for Mia once she learns the whole truth about Scott, his work, and their marriage. Like Mia, have you ever been in long-term denial about a situation in your life? How differently would things have turned out if Mia had confronted Scott about her concerns?