

# SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES Reading Group Discussion Questions

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is your initial reaction to Lara and Farraday? How do you see that relationship progressing? What is 'real' about it and what, if anything, seems to be not 'real' in how they relate to each other?
2. Who do you relate to most closely yourself and why?
3. Do events unfold as you expected through the story or were you surprised by the order in which things happened? Did the story hold your attention? Were you able to guess the 'bad guys' early on?
4. Do you feel that there were any underlying messages (feminism etc) and if so, what were they and how were they presented?
5. Did you feel that there were unanswered questions at the end and were there any issues you would like to have seen clarified?
6. Does the small town setting hold true?

## CHAPTER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Chapter One - How did you react to the opening gambit - the video? Did the reaction of the press and the cops seem believable? What was your impression of Duane?
- Chapter Two - What were your impressions of Betty Zimmerman as a witness? Were the investigations so far handled, as you would expect? Why do you think the second witness was kept secret till now?
- Chapter Three - How do you feel about Collins? Is the chapter structure easy to follow? What do you think of Walker?
- Chapter Four - Are you satisfied with Farraday's reasons for staying at Lara's? What is your opinion of Fletcher? What did you think of the finding of the body and the appearance of Trin?
- Chapter Five - What is your opinion of David Douglas? Do you think it is believable that no one seemed to know Susan was pregnant? What do you think happened to the baby?
- Chapter Six - How did you feel about the 'reform school'? What do you think of Megan and Walker as a couple?
- Chapter Seven - Was the time with Douglas' sister well spent in your opinion? Do you think her information was worth the trouble? Did you have any questions that you think they should have asked but did not?

- Chapter Eight - What did you think of the time away? How did that develop the relationship? Is Hatcher an abusive boss?
- Chapter Nine - How do you think this chapter impacts on the rest of the book - were the previous chapters a good lead in or were the happenings here totally unexpected?
- Chapter Ten - Did you have to reform your opinion of any of the characters? What of the house investigation? Would you have walked in there?
- Chapter Eleven - How do you think the drug racket will tie in?
- Chapter Twelve - Why do you think that the police did not accept the double murder at face value? What evidence did they have?
- Chapter Thirteen - What do you think of the latest death? Is the relationship of Lara and Farraday moving along at the right pace for you?
- Chapter Fourteen - What do you think of Dan Van Biers?
- Chapter Fifteen - What do you think of the new twists in the case? How does this all fit in with the original murder? Do you think all the reporters are investigating related incidents?

- Chapter Sixteen - Where there any real surprise for you in this chapter and what were they?
- Chapter Seventeen -Were you surprised about Becker? What are your feelings on the teen with AIDs angle?
- Chapter Eighteen - What purpose was served by kidnapping Trin? Do you feel the action with Jimmy and Farraday was believable?
- Chapter Nineteen - Were enough of the lose ends tied up to suit you? Are you satisfied with how the relationship between Lara and Farraday wound up? What is your overall impression of the book?

Sandra Ruttan wishes to thank Lynne Fraser for creating this reading group question list.