

Discussion Questions

1. In the prologue an unnamed character is talking to Chief Cotter. As the story progressed, who did you guess this character was?
2. How did you respond to the excerpts from Trent Williams's Pulitzer prize-winning article, "Gone to Ground"? What reasons do you think the author had for including them in this format?
3. What did you think of the dialect of the three main characters? Did it help characterize them for you? Did you find it at all distracting?
4. As the story progressed, who did you think was the killer? Did your opinion change?
5. Did you relate more to one of the three main characters than the others? Which one?
6. Could the story have been told as well in third person?

7. All the characters in this book, including the three main characters, struggled with some form of hypocrisy. How did Cherrie Mae, Deena, and Tully each struggle with this issue?

8. If each of these three characters had told the full truth from the beginning, would things have gone easier for them?

9. Has hypocrisy ever crept into your life—or into the life of someone you know—in a way that surprised you?

10. If you were in Cherrie Mae's situation, how would you have handled it?

11. If you were in Deena's shoes, what would you have done?

12. How about Tully? What would you have done in her situation?

13. What classical quote from Cherrie Mae did you like best?

14. What was the biggest surprise for you in this story?

15. What did you learn from this story?