



**The Ones We Trust Readers Questions. Please note :: spoilers ahead! Proceed accordingly.**

1. Abigail feels responsible for Chelsea's suicide, so much so she abandoned a successful career because of it. Can you relate to how Abigail allows guilt to drive her decisions? What other big decisions in the story does her guilt have a part in shaping?
2. What does the title, *The Ones We Trust*, mean to you? Discuss all the ways the characters had to learn to trust, not only others but also themselves.
3. As a journalist, Abigail believes that public enlightenment is the cornerstone of democracy, and that it is not just her job but her duty to seek and report the truth. Her father's life and career, on the other hand, were built on a need-to-know basis. Whose viewpoint do you more relate to? Why? In the end, how did Abigail and Tom reconcile their beliefs with what happened?
4. Jean's request sparks Abigail's desire to write again, "something positive and good and important," but her fear of making the same mistakes holds her back. Can you relate to wanting something that scares you? How do your own fears play a role in the choices you make in your life?
5. Abigail claims that "words, even when they're carefully crafted, can be just as deadly as a bullet." Do you agree?
6. What scenes or developments in the novel affected you most? Which character's motivations and choices could you most relate to?
7. How does public perception of Gabe differ from how Abigail views him? What was your impression of Gabe? Did your perception of him change during the story?
8. Gabe is determined to discover the truth about who shot his brother, even lying and stealing in order to get it. Do you think his methods were justified? Can you relate to his steadfast belief that the truth would bring closure to his tragedy?
9. According to Jean, "Anger can be like a buoy. Sometimes it feels like the only thing holding your head above water, but you have to let go of it at some point. Otherwise, you'll never make it back to shore." Do you understand what she meant by this? And is letting go of anger ever that easy?
10. How do Abigail and Gabe change over the course of the novel? Which character changes the most, which the least?

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Internationally Bestselling Author

Make sure to check out **Stranger in the Lake**, out 6.9.2020 from Park Row Books.



*Her riskiest move was saying, "I do."*

When Charlotte married the older and very wealthy widower Paul, it caused a ripple of gossip in their small lakeside town. They have a charmed life together, despite the cruel whispers about her trailer park past and his first marriage. But everything starts to unravel when she discovers a young woman's body floating in the exact same spot where Paul's first wife tragically drowned.

At first, her death seems like a horrific coincidence, but the stranger in the lake is no stranger. Charlotte saw Paul talking to her the day before, even though Paul tells the police he's never met the woman. His lie exposes cracks in their fragile new marriage, cracks Charlotte is determined to keep from breaking them in two.

But as secrets, and people, from Paul's past begin to surface, Charlotte uncovers dark secrets that have been simmering under the lake's waters for years. She doesn't know what to trust – her heart who knows Paul to be a good man, or her growing

suspicion that there's something he's desperate to hide.

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