

Southfield Public Library

Lethal by Sandra Brown

Discussion Questions used at SPL -- March 2012

1. Had you read anything by her before? If yes, was this a good example of her work? Were you happy with it?
2. If no, would you read her again? Why/Why not?
3. How well did she do in misdirection? She had me thinking that Stan (father-in-law) was the bookkeeper at first. Who did you think it was? How many times did you change your mind?
4. Did you notice that she never gave the Bookkeeper a gender when people were talking to her? No he said or she said. . . After a bit, that made me think it was woman.
5. How well were the characters fleshed out. . . were they believable?
6. How would you describe Honor? Give some examples of her strengths and weaknesses. . .
7. How about Coburn. . .
8. What about Stan? Did you like him? Did your opinion of him change as the book went on?
9. What about Janice. . .the bookkeeper. . .what did you think of her when she was first introduced? Did you ever get suspicious of her?
10. Do you think that "mother lioness," protect your baby mindset that Honor has is common? Would most people be able to think as well on her feet as she did?
11. Remember our four doors. . .Plot, characters, setting, language. . .Which you use to describe this book?
12. What did you think of the relationship between Honor and Coburn. . .did you see how it could have progressed that way or did you just go along for the ride?
13. What other characters did you like? Leaving out the Bookkeeper, who was the creepiest?
14. How widespread was the network the Bookkeeper had created? How dirty were the police and the FBI?
15. Do you think that such corruption is common in government?

16. What do you think people think about when they decide to do something like this? Is it even understandable to people like us, who go to bookclubs??
17. Were you happy with the ending? Did you like having the epilogue? Did the reasons behind Janice/bookkeeper's actions make sense?
18. Do you think Honor and Emily will walk through that door?
19. From my reading about this author, she is known for writing books with strong female characters. . . would you agree?
20. In an interview, she said setting is always important in her books. . .Did you get a feel for being in Louisiana and the bayous or could it have been anywhere? Did the location play a role in the book?
21. Some of us are going to see her speak next week. . .What questions would you ask her if you had the chance? She said how do you get your ideas is the most common one. . .So don't ask that!

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General Discussion Questions

- For the person who chose the book – What made you want to read it? What made you pick it for the book club? Did it live up to your expectations?
- How is the book structured? First person? Third person? Flashbacks? Narrative devices? Do you think the author did a good job with it?
- How would you describe the author’s writing style? Concise? Flowery? How is language used in this book? Read aloud a passage that really struck you. How does that passage relate to the book as a whole?
- How effective is the author’s use of plot twists? Were you able to predict certain things before they happened? Did the author keep you guessing until the end?
- Did the book hold your interest?
- How important is the setting to the story? Did you feel like you were somewhere else? Did the time setting make a difference in the story? Did the author provide enough background information for you to understand the setting and time placement?
- Which is stronger in the book – the characters or the plots?
- Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why? And to whom?