

## Book Club Discussions



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### CHARACTER WITNESS

A shared cubicle in a strip-mall law office was not the kind of career Kathleen Cotter had dreamed of but all that changes when her uncle, legendary criminal defense attorney Gerry O'Doul, invites her to join his Beverly Hills firm.

But O'Doul is old, his offices are on the wrong end of Beverly Hills, his glory days are over. It looks like another dead end for Kathleen until a new client walks through the door. Louise Booker wants her dead ex-husband's life insurance money but the suicide stipulation is stopping her. When the case goes to court, the judge challenges Kathleen to prove that the deceased did NOT commit suicide. The investigation leads Kathleen into scandal and murder as she follows a trail of lies and corruption. To save her own life, she must face something even more dangerous than the killer - she must face the truth.

### BOOK GUIDE:

1. **Kathleen Cotter is disappointed when she finds her uncle, Gerry O'Doul, is no longer the successful Beverly Hills attorney he once was.** Why was she really disappointed? Because Gerry wasn't the man she thought he was? Because there was no personal success to be had?
2. **Her first thought was to go back to the strip mall law firm.** Did Kathleen think that's all she was good for or was it the lure of the predictable that made her want to go back? Is there real safety in what is familiar or is that safety an illusion?
3. **Kathleen had mom issues.** Why do parents sometimes have incredible power over an adult who should know better? Was it Kathleen's good heart that made her stay in a small town and take care of her mother despite the way her mother treated her? Was it fear of the unknown that kept her where she was? Was Kathleen's confidence innate and limited?
4. **Louise Brooker made an entrance and never left the stage.** What was there to love about Louise? Her honesty? Her sense of self? Do you think Louise was smart or did she just steamroll through situations hoping everything would turn out the way she wanted it to?
5. **The women in this story are as different as night and day and yet they eventually become friends and work together as a team.** What was the point where all their lines intersected? Was it that they recognized that they were not as strong individually as they were together? Was it that they all recognized that poor Lionel deserved to be championed?
6. **Gerry O'Doul was a gentleman from a different age.** What kept Gerry going? What qualities did he possess that made Kathleen not only come to love him and admire him as an attorney. What had changed about Kathleen so that she did not run away from Beverly Hills when Gerry died? Did she stay and fight for Louise and Lionel because of Gerry or was it something else?