



Rebecca Forster

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DARK WITNESS

As the edge of winter slices through fall, Josie Bates testifies in Washington D.C. about the Albanian blood feud that sent Hannah Sheraton and Billy Zuni fleeing for their lives, and Archer reluctantly abandons a trail that has gone cold in his search for the teenagers. Determined to stay one step ahead of the authorities who want Billy back and a blood feud that will only be satisfied when he is dead, Hannah and Billy head north. There they will hunker down in the darkest corner of earth they can find and wait for the danger to pass. Though the journey is treacherous, they finally find themselves isolated, safe, and as far from Hermosa Beach as they can get. But Hannah's relief is short lived. When the perpetual winter dark turns to inky black, they realize they've taken refuge in hell. Now the fight in front of her and Billy is not only for their lives, but their very souls.

1. Josie, Archer and Hannah - and now Billy - have lived their lives over the course of seven books. Did you see each of them grow as people or do you feel they each stayed true to their original character?
2. Hannah took Josie's direction to flee seriously; Josie almost immediately started looking for Hannah once she disappeared. Who do you think was right? Do you think the Josie - or the system - would have been able to protect Billy Zuni if he and Hannah had gone back to Hermosa Beach?*
3. Billy transitioned from a boy needing to be cared for to a man who took matters into his own hands. Do you believe he made this transition purely out of love for Hannah or were there other circumstances in Alaska that facilitated this change?
4. Do you believe Hannah loved Billy in the same way he loved her?
5. Do you think the cycle will continue? Will Hannah eventually try to find Billy in the same way Josie and Archer tried to find her?

6. Faith played a huge roll in this story. Billy's faith in Hannah, Hannah's in Josie's. But what about the faith Duncan's flock had in him? Was it misplaced? Was it inevitable since each of them was so flawed? What virtues did Duncan bring to the table?

7. Do you believe Duncan was evil?

8. Do you believe a 'real life' Teresa could have made the decisions the fictional one did? First, to kill her children; next, to seek forgiveness by following Duncan and Pea; third, to die with her child who may or may not have known she was there?

9. Andre Guillard and Nell had a relationship that seemed particularly 'Alaskan' in terms of their individual independence. What do you think their future will be? Is this relationship more traditional than they even know?

10. Josie and Archer are made for each other. Is this a truly happier-ever-after relationship? Does that kind of relationship only exist in fiction?

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