

## Book Club Discussions



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### EYEWITNESS

In the dead of night, Josie Bates is ripped from sleep by the sounds of an epic storm raging over Hermosa Beach and a man beating on her door begging her to help Billy Zuni who is drowning in the raging sea. She arrives at the shore just in time to see the teenager pulled from the water, battered and near death. Ready to kill Billy's selfish, neglectful mother, Josie rushes to the Zuni house only to find someone has beaten her to it. Two men lie dead downstairs and Billy's mother clings to life on the floor above. Spurred on by Hannah's fear that Billy will be framed for the murders, Josie takes up his defense. But Billy is evasive, physical evidence points to his guilt, and the county counsel wants him committed to the state. With the clock ticking, Archer and Josie set out to find the mysterious man who can vouch for Billy's whereabouts at the time of the murders. What they find instead is a web of intrigue and deceit that stretches half way around the world and an eyewitness who is blinded by a justice Josie cannot understand.

### BOOK CLUB GUIDE:

1. **This book has a dual storyline.**

How did you feel about the creative format? Were you drawn into the story because of it or despite it.

2. **Billy Zuni's predicament challenges Josie's view of herself and her community.**

Could and/or should the community have been more proactive where Billy was concerned? Why were people reluctant to step forward and take responsibility for him before and after the crime?

3. **Hannah's reaction to Billy's predicament is passionate.**

What drives Hannah to champion Billy so strongly that she was willing to leave Josie? Are her actions motivated by love, a sense of justice, or a belief that she and Billy are never meant to be secure and safe?

4. **Revenge is common in many cultures, but Albanian blood feud is rooted in ancient law.**

Are the laws of the Kunan less valid than those of our justice system? Why or why not? Should we be able to dispense justice on Albanian soil in the same way Gjergy expected to on ours?

5. **Rosa Zuni was a formidable character.**

Was Rosa heroic or naive? Could she and her mother be forgiven for the plan because of their isolation from the world? Was her life an indictment of our passive culture?

6. **In the end, everyone has scattered and dreams are shattered.**

What was the most emotionally wrenching consequence of what happened in this story? Why do you consider your choice the most tragic?