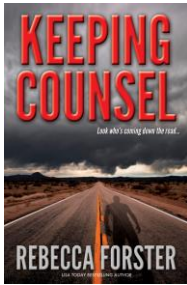


Book Club Discussions



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New Mexico attorney Tara Linley has always believed in the power and fairness of the law. All that changes when she takes on her best friend's lover as a client. It is only after she reluctantly agrees to represent Bill Hamilton that Tara discovers the real reason he has sought her out and the shocking crime he has committed. Attorney/client privilege prevents Tara from warning her friend that her life is in danger and the District Attorney's political agenda blocks the only legal solution to her problem. Caught up in a web of escalating circumstances that threaten not only her professional reputation but her life Tara finds herself at the mercy of her dangerously unstable client...a man who is growing more psychotic by the day.

1. **Bill Hamilton has been giving readers the 'creeps'.** Is Bill frightening because he is a cold blooded killer? Because he is so smart and able to manipulate the system? Or so charming he is able to manipulate the women he comes in contact with so easily?
2. **Tara has taken an oath to keep her client's counsel until he becomes a direct threat to her or another person.** Could you - or would you - respect such an oath if you were an attorney. Do you understand why the courts require this kind of extreme counsel? This is an extreme example, but there are other legal situations in which the court will not act unless there is demonstrable threat. Can you name one?
3. **Tara believes has got her life together and, conversely, believes that Donna is ruining hers.** Is she right on either count? Isn't Donna equally self-aware and knows exactly what she's doing? Are her fears of growing old alone shared by Tara on any level? Do you know women who are willing to overlook anything the man in their life does just to make sure he stays? Do you think Donna believed Bill was a murderer or did she truly believe that Tara was the one of was crazy?
4. **How did you feel about Ben?** There was a moment when Ben reminded Tara that he had been hurt by her desertion. But Tara was a teenager when the accident happened. Do you think she should harbor any guilt for not keeping in touch? Does distance and time allow someone to completely rewrite history in their head or do they always know the truth about a situation?
5. **Woodrow and Charlotte were quite a pair.** Woodrow was within the law when he refused to accept Tara's conditions for turning over Bill Hamilton but was he acting ethically? Should he have considered friendship more carefully? Should Woodrow have confided in Charlotte at all?
6. **At the courthouse door Tara is confronted by the husband of the woman murdered at the Circle K.** Do you think Tara should ever have considered the victim and her family or the community at large when she realized how unstable Bill Hamilton was? If the answer is yes, what should she have done?

7. **In the end it is implied that Bill Hamilton will someday be free.** Discuss Bill's future. Would he still be with Donna? Do you think Donna would continue to turn a blind eye to his madness?