

Questionable Ethics

Readers' Discussion Guide

1. Questionable Ethics is set in a small town in Illinois. Discuss the problems unique to small towns versus those associated with larger cities.
2. Melissa 'Mel' Addison is the fourth child in her family. The children are as follows: Richard, Jr. (Rich), Teresa, Mitchell (Mitch), Melissa (Mel), and Cameron. How does her birth place order affect her actions? Is she typical or atypical? Why?
3. Having grown up in a police officer's family, how did this shape Mel's thoughts and actions?
4. Mel's past is the key to her uncovering the murderers. How did her past shape her into the woman that she became?
5. The five stages of grief are: denial (this isn't happening to me!), anger (why is this happening to me?), bargaining (I promise I'll be a better person if...), Depression (I don't care anymore), and acceptance (I'm ready for whatever comes). Which stage is Mel in? Why?
6. How will Max Bauer play a role in Mel's life? Is she ready for it?
7. Why did Max leave California and what is he looking for?
8. Discuss the romantic triangle between Mel, Max, and Bart.
9. The Mississippi River shapes life in Quincy. Discuss how the physical environment can affect people's lives. Why?
10. Will Max return? (I know that was mean, but you'll have to wait until the next book.)
11. What is Mel really looking for in her return to Quincy?
12. Finish this sentence for each character: Happiness is..... (Mel, Max, Bart, Tom Bressler, Marion Williams and Petey)
13. What obstacle stands in Mel's way of finding her heart's desire? What about Max?