

BURDEN of TRUTH **Reading Group Guide**

CAUTION: *This reading guide contains spoilers.*

About Burden of Truth:

At some moment in every person's life they've been burdened by a secret or truth that has consequences. We can all relate. Part police procedural, part family drama, Burden of Truth is a tale of love, loss, secrets, and lies. It is about Birdie Keane's dark journey to reconcile her passion for a cold case murder and her devotion to finding out why the man she loved died. It is also about loyalty and to what lengths families will protect each other.

1. Did Matt act responsibly in dealing with his caretaker status of the family secret?
2. Should Birdie have considered that Matt was murdered? Why or why not?
3. Why was Birdie so passionate about the reconciliation of the Paige Street murder?
4. Secrets are a common theme in this novel. Why do we reveal some secrets while keeping others private? Are some secrets necessary?
5. Birdie spent her teens and twenties as an alcoholic. How has this affected her emotional capabilities now that she is sober?
6. Considering her love for Matt, why did Birdie go from one man to another? Why did she fall for Ron so quickly?
7. Is Birdie a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
8. The Keanes are a tight-knit family. Is this a strength or weakness?
9. Could this story be set in another locale other than Los Angeles? Is the city important in the telling?
10. Considering that Arthur was the Paige Street suspect, why doesn't he play a bigger role in the novel? Or does he?
11. Why did Nora have the implements required for the kitchen table surgery at the ready?
12. Did Birdie let the conspirators off the hook too easily?
13. Did Matt really love Birdie?
14. Which character deserves the most sympathy?
15. What happened to the money stolen during the Paige Street incident?
16. What happens after the book ends? Will Birdie find her missing person? Should she?
17. What truths emerge in Burden of Truth? In what ways do they enhance the above themes of love, loss, secrets, and lies?