

SWORN TO SILENCE

Discussion Questions

1. How does the Amish Country setting impact the story? Do the peculiarities of the closed community affect the investigation?
2. How does Kate Burkholder's status as a former member of the Amish community help her investigation? Does it hinder the investigation in any way?
3. In what ways does Kate change through the course of the book—both as a character and in the way you as the reader view her?
4. John Tomasetti is a troubled, complex man. How does he change or grow as a character through the course of the book?
5. Were you surprised by the revelation of the villain? If not, what clues gave the villain away?
6. Do you feel that the villain got his just reward at the end of the book? Why or why not?
7. Kate and Tomasetti both come into this story with a lot of baggage. How do their individual traumas affect their relationship, for better or for worse? Is their relationship appropriate?
8. Reviewers have made frequent reference to the level of violence in *Sworn to Silence*. What role do you think that violence plays in the storytelling? Does it add or detract from your reading experience? Was there anything you found particularly disturbing?
9. If you had the opportunity to re-write one element of the book, what would it be and how would you do it?