

RANDALL SILVIS

AUTHOR OF *TWO DAYS GONE*

"[A] chilly suspense novel."

—*New York Times Sunday Book Review*
for *Two Days Gone*

A LONG WAY DOWN

A Ryan
DeMarco
Mystery

READING GROUP GUIDE

1. DeMarco returns home when his estranged wife commits suicide. What kind of responsibility do you think he feels toward her? What might you do in a similar situation?
2. DeMarco's reaction to Jayme wanting to have a baby isn't entirely positive. How do you think the death of his son, Ryan Jr., has affected his view on having children? Do you find Jayme to be understanding of the reasons behind DeMarco's hesitation? What are your beliefs about how a couple should make decisions about having children?
3. Several people at the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department seem to take it for granted that Freddy Costa is behind the series of murders, although they have never been able to pin anything on him. What ethical issues do you think this kind of assumption might raise within law enforcement communities? Are you aware of any criminal cases nationally or in your area where this kind of assumption may have affected the outcome of an investigation or criminal trial?
4. When DeMarco and Jayme arrive at Dr. Gillespie's house and find Kaitlin there, it seems obvious that the professor has made a habit of sleeping with his students. What kind of moral issues might arise from that situation, even when sex is between two consenting adults?

5. DeMarco's wife, Laraine, visits a psychic who gives her a message that supposedly comes from her and DeMarco's late son. Why do you think Laraine finds the message so comforting? Do you believe it's possible to communicate with people who have passed away?

6. *A Long Way Down* deals with the darker side of life at a university. While the events in the book are an extreme example of how things can go wrong in an insular community, there are certainly plenty of examples of how groups on a college campus can get out of control. Do you know anyone who has experienced hazing, sexual harassment, or drug use in college? How responsible do you think universities are for these kinds of activities, and how might they strive to prevent them from occurring?

7. Do you think DeMarco and Jayme's relationship will survive what they have been through? How can you imagine them moving on from this point?

8. *A Long Way Down* is the third book in the Ryan DeMarco Mystery series. If you have read the first two books, *Two Days Gone* and *Walking the Bones*, how would you say DeMarco's character has changed during the course of the series? In what ways has he grown? What issues is he still struggling to overcome?