



A NOVEL

ROBERT THOROGOOD

Reading Group Guide

1. Judith loves being totally independent and having her life, her house, and her whisky all her own way. What simple pleasures would you grant yourself if you had no one else to answer to?
2. Why does Judith get involved in Stefan's murder in the first place? How does Judith's investigation compare to the one conducted by the police? If the police claimed to be looking into something, would you continue pursuing it yourself?
3. What was your first impression of Elliot Howard? Knowing how the book ends, what accounts for his demeanor?
4. Judith admits she had only a passing acquaintance with Stefan but is still shocked to hear Elliot Howard's poor opinion of him. How well do you think you know your neighbors? Would you be startled to think of them as liars or frauds?

5. Describe Detective Sergeant Tanika Malik. How seriously do you think she takes her career?

6. Do you think Becks likes being a perfect housewife? Have you ever noticed yourself taking on a role you didn't like to fulfill expectations? Whose expectations were they, and how did you move forward?

7. Compare Judith's, Becks's, and Suzie's attitudes towards selfishness. Are any of them truly selfish? Are women more likely to be called selfish for being self-reliant or failing to be accommodating to others?

8. Suzie offends Judith by looking for information about Philippos. Whose side would you take in their disagreement? How did you feel about the final reveal regarding Philippos's disappearance?

9. How much of the conspiracy had you figured out by the time Judith unveiled it? Were there any pieces that kept you particularly stumped?

10. What do you think is next for Judith, Suzie, and Becks? Do you think they'll be able to return to their usual lives?