

### ***Absolute Liability* Discussion Prompters**

- What makes a novel “Southern”? Is it just the setting, or do you experience a Southern feel in other aspects of books, such as the writing style or characters? Did *Absolute Liability* feel Southern to you? Why or why not?
- What character(s) did you most identify with and why?
- The insurance industry is generally unpopular, and insurance fraud investigators are usually portrayed negatively in novels and on TV. How did you feel when you first learned that the heroes of *Absolute Liability* worked in this field? Did your perceptions of the insurance world change at all after reading *Absolute Liability*?
- How did the inclusion of the antagonist’s point of view affect your knowledge of the crime? At some points, did you feel as if you had more information than the investigators?
- How were clues revealed as the mystery progressed, and how did the characters’ thoughts on the clues influence your theories about the crime? At what point in the book did you figure out whodunit?
- What is the theme of *Absolute Liability*, or did you view it as more of a fun read without a deeper message?
- Julia feels “absolutely liable” for both Amber’s abduction and subsequent death and for Tricia’s rape and the dissolution of their family. She did nothing to cause these crimes directly, but her role in the events surrounding them leaves her feeling guilty. How do Julia’s feelings of absolute liability influence her personality and life choices? Has she taken on too much responsibility for righting these wrongs? How are you like (or unlike) Julia in this regard?
- At what point in *Absolute Liability* did you decide whether or not you liked the book? What helped you come to this decision?
- If you were going to continue the Southern Fraud series in your own mind, what would happen next?