

***Death Benefits* Discussion Prompters**

- *Death Benefits* opens with the antagonist disposing of a body. Based on the information you read in chapter 1, how did you expect the murder plot to unfold? How did your expectations change throughout the rest of the book?
- How does Julia's use of lethal force at the end of *Absolute Liability* change her in *Death Benefits*?
- Were you pleased to see Mark Vincent's return? And do you think Julia is ready to embark on a relationship with him? Is Vincent ready? How does their relationship change during the course of the fraud investigation?
- How does Vincent's relationship with Justin change throughout the book? Can their relationship ever be repaired?
- How does Tricia's injury and hospitalization affect her, and do you think her resulting detox from alcohol will influence her relationship with Julia and the rest of her family? Will sobriety help her when she learns of Julia's investigation into her rape?
- Do you think Julia is wise for withholding the truth of her investigation from her sister? What do you make of her decision to tell Vincent about it?
- At what point did you realize that Theodore Vanderbilt was alive, and when did you know where he had acquired the body to use his death benefits scam? Did you believe him to be a murderer?
- Kathy Vanderbilt is a redneck who demands her "respects." Do you know anyone like Kathy? And did she deserve to keep the insurance money after all was said and done?
- What did you perceive as the theme of *Death Benefits*?
- How well do you think *Death Benefits* continued the feel and theme of the Southern Fraud series?
- Who was your favorite supporting character in *Death Benefits* and why?
- If you were going to continue the Southern Fraud series in your own mind, what would happen next?