



Reader Discussion Questions

1. Michael Shelter was born in an affluent part of Winnipeg but rejects the career paths chosen by his friends and desired for him by his father and grandfather. What does this decision reveal about Shelter's personality?
2. During the course of the investigation, Shelter and his partner, Gabriel Traverse, move between poorer, high crime neighbourhoods in Winnipeg's West and North Ends to the relative affluence of River Heights on the other side of the Assiniboine River. In his professional and personal lives, Shelter inhabits both these worlds as we see in his interactions with his mother, Gordy Taylor and Bill and Shawna Craig. How does Shelter's background and the Winnipeg setting inform the story?
3. The book has many twists and turns – as well as red herrings. Did the plot twists feel plausible? Which was most surprising to you?
4. Shelter struggles with feelings of self-doubt both as a detective and in his efforts to connect with his daughter, Kelsey, in the wake of his wife's death. How did this personality trait affect your perception of Shelter? How well drawn was the character of Kelsey?
5. Omand's Creek deals with the tragic subject of violence against Indigenous women in Manitoba. Other issues touched upon include the 60s scoop, violated treaties and endemic racism. What are a non-Indigenous author's responsibilities in writing fiction about such deeply painful realities for Indigenous people and in creating Indigenous characters?
6. What was your perception of the Indigenous characters and their interactions with non-Indigenous characters? What view does the reader get of Manitoba's history and current reality?
7. What is the most important part of a mystery novel to each book club member – characterization, action, dialogue or setting? Have each member identify what is most important to them and discuss how the novel rated in their reading of it.

8. In her autobiography, Agatha Christie famously said that romantic subplots had no place in a mystery. Do you agree or disagree with her views? Did this book have an element of romance? If so, do you feel that it enhanced or detracted from the story?
9. The mystery at the heart of Omand's Creek spans several decades and generations. What is the effect of this when the killer is finally revealed?
10. A good ending is key to a satisfying mystery novel. Discuss whether the ending is believable and whether it was organic – growing out of clues previously laid out by the author. What was your reaction to who the killer turned out to be?