

Suggested Book Club Discussion Questions for Watching the Water

- 1.) The author precedes Chapter One with the Blaisé Pascal quote, “The heart has reasons that reason cannot know.” What do you think this quote means? How can it be applied to the relationship between Jace and Julianna? To Jace’s “Robin Hood” methods of retribution?
- 2.) The book is set during the 1930’s, a time associated with the Great Depression. However, the book includes other elements of the decade. Did you find them interesting? Learn anything new? One reason the author chose this era was because it was possible for the story to have happened then. Do you agree/disagree? Could it have been set in current times and been believable?
- 3.) Realistically, do you think defiance and desperation factored into Julianna’s decision to flee or could it really be motivated by love alone? Considering her shift in feelings about her father, do you think she would have remained the dutiful daughter had Jace not come along? Why did she frequently check her watch?
- 4.) Leyton was inspired by someone the author knew. Did you find anything about him to be sympathetic? Do you think his worst qualities could have emerged from good traits that became distorted and misused? Which of his deeds triggered the strongest reaction from you?
- 5.) Cassie and Virginia are Julianna’s closest friends, but they’re very different women. What did each one contribute to Julianna’s life? Imagine Julianna had a third best friend — you. How would you like to be written into the story? How would you advise her?
- 6.) After Julianna leaves, her mother expresses remorse for not being more supportive. Do you think this is an indicator that she is coming around to her daughter’s perspective? Do you predict she’ll be stronger in Part II, or will she always default to the expectations of high society?
- 7.) During her final night with Jace, Julianna suddenly feels a quick, “glowing flash” race through her body and likens it to a shooting star. Any guesses on what that flash will later prove to be?
- 8.) As far as resolving the awful predicament Leyton created, do you think Jace and Julianna’s plan was good? Would you like to have seen them try something else, like going on the run? Given the outcome of their original plan, would that have been better?
- 9.) Given the time period and circumstances, did Julianna have any other choice at the end of Part I? What would be going through your mind if you were her?
- 10.) What do you predict Julianna will do in Part II????!!!

Just for Fun

If *Watching the Water* became a movie, who would you want to see cast? If each character was an animal, what would they be? What traits come to mind when you compare Jace to a lighthouse?