

The Killer's Therapist Book Club Questions

1. How does Hadley's childhood trauma influence both her career choice and her relationships throughout the novel? In what ways does she both overcome and remain affected by her past?
2. The theme of redemption runs throughout the story. How do different characters view the possibility of redemption? Consider Benjamin, Cleaves, and Hadley's varying perspectives on whether people can truly change.
3. Discuss the relationship between Hadley and Josiah. What holds them back from acknowledging their feelings for each other earlier in the story? How does their shared grief over Jules both connect and separate them?
4. The novel explores different types of love—obsessive, healthy, and destructive. How does Evan's "love" for Hadley contrast with Josiah's? What does the story suggest about the nature of genuine love versus toxic attachment?
5. Several characters in the novel wear masks, hiding their true nature. How do Evan, Cleaves, and even Benjamin deceive others? What does this suggest about human nature and our ability to truly know others?
6. How does Hadley's work with criminals affect her ability to see danger in her personal life? Does her desire to believe in redemption make her more vulnerable?
7. The setting of Hadley's childhood home plays a significant role in the story's climax. What is the symbolic significance of Evan choosing this location? How does it represent both Hadley's fears and ultimately, her strength?
8. Discuss the role of Stanley throughout the novel. How does the author use him to create misdirection and tension? What does his character reveal about trust and appearances?
9. Several characters struggle with the impact of childhood trauma—Hadley, Evan, and Robin among them. How do their different responses to trauma shape their adult lives and choices?
10. The novel raises questions about justice, forgiveness, and accountability. How do you feel about Benjamin's possible wrongful conviction? What does the story suggest about the criminal justice system?
11. Discuss the significance of Hadley's profession as a therapist. How does her role helping others process trauma relate to her own journey of healing?
12. By the end of the novel, how has Hadley's perspective on love, trust, and redemption evolved? What has she learned about herself through these experiences?