

## Vacation Friends Book Club Questions

1. Throughout the novel, Maddie demonstrates good instincts about people, yet sometimes ignores her gut feelings. What instances did you notice where she should have trusted her intuition more? Why do you think people sometimes override their internal warning systems?
2. The theme of facades and hidden identities runs through the story. Josh presents himself as the perfect fiancé, Adrienne as a victim, and even Maddie keeps parts of her past hidden. How do these deceptions drive the plot? What does this suggest about how well we can truly know others?
3. Both Maddie and Adrienne experienced trauma in their past related to elder abuse, but they chose very different paths in response. How did their respective experiences shape their adult lives and choices? What does this suggest about how people process and react to trauma?
4. The author uses multiple perspectives, including chapters from the killer's point of view. How did this narrative choice affect your reading experience? Did it increase suspense or change how you viewed certain characters?
5. Paradise and danger are juxtaposed throughout the novel. How does the author use the beautiful Hawaiian setting to heighten the sense of menace and create dramatic tension?
6. Several relationships in the book (Josh/Maddie, Adrienne/Brody, Bree/Fowler) are built on deception. Compare and contrast how these different couples navigate truth and lies. What commentary might this offer about modern relationships?
7. The story explores themes of privilege, entitlement, and class differences. How do these societal factors influence the characters' motivations and actions? What role does money and social status play in driving the plot?
8. Maddie's journey involves reclaiming her authentic self after trying to fit into Josh's world. What moments stand out as key to her character development? How does her relationship with Brody differ from her relationship with Josh?
9. Both the past storyline with Cecilia and the present storyline with Adrienne deal with similar themes of rejection and revenge. How do these parallel narratives enhance each other? What insights do they offer about family, belonging, and justice?
10. The ending leaves some threads unresolved, particularly regarding Josh's fate. How did you feel about this ambiguity? What do you imagine happened to Josh? How might different possibilities affect how you interpret the overall story?
11. Corporate espionage and family drama intertwine throughout the novel. How do professional ambitions and personal vendettas feed into each other? Could the tragic events have been prevented if characters had made different choices?

12. The novel touches on themes of forgiveness, redemption, and moving forward after trauma. Looking at different characters' arcs, what does the story suggest about the possibility of healing and second chances?