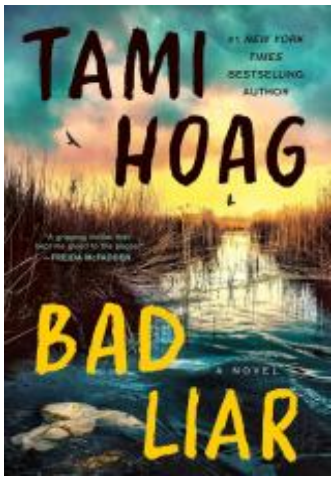
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Bad Liar

by Tami Hoag



About the Book

Masterful #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Tami Hoag is back with a riveting, emotionally powerful new thriller.

Small-town labels are hard to shake. Hometown hero. Fallen angel. Can anyone ever escape their past?

A murder victim dumped at the dead end of a lonely country road, face and hands obliterated by a shotgun blast, is not the way sheriff?s detective Nick Fourcade wants to start his week. His only lead takes him to the family of a hometown hero suddenly gone missing. Marc Mercier left his home for a weekend hunting trip and hasn?t been seen since.

Meanwhile, sheriff?s detective Annie Broussard begins her first day back on the job after suffering a brutal attack by taking on the case of B?Lynn Fontenot, a mother desperate to find her grown son, a recovering drug addict. Robbie Fontenot has been missing for eight days, but the local police have no interest in the case, telling B?Lynn that an adult has the right to disappear, and a missing addict is no big surprise. But B?Lynn swears her son was turning his life around. Sympathetic to a mother?s anguish, Annie agrees to help B?Lynn, knowing she?s about to start a turf war with the city police.

As Annie searches for Robbie Fontenot, and Nick investigates the disappearance of Marc Mercier, it quickly becomes apparent that nothing is as it seems in the lives of either man. And it?s still not clear whether either --- or neither --- of them might be the unidentified murder victim. Old jealousies and fresh deceits, family loyalties gone wrong, and love turned sour all lay a twisting trail that leads deep into the Louisiana swamp, endangering all who cross the path of a bad liar.

Discussion Guide

Note: These discussion questions contain some spoilers. We suggest you finish the book before you read through them.

1. Throughout the novel, the title ?Bad Liar? comes to reflect a number of characters. How did your perception of the meaning behind the title shift as the plot unfolded, particularly for characters like the ?hometown hero??

2. ?Would it have been a good lie or a bad lie, this lie by omission? Did it matter? A lie was a lie, and she didn?t want that between them, no matter how valid her motivation might have been.? What did you make of Annie?s observation, quoted here, about there being no difference between good or bad lies? Do you think there can ever be a ?good lie??

3. There are some dark themes in BAD LIAR, including struggles with addiction. In a time when our country contends with an epidemic of addiction --- one that is often stigmatized instead of treated --- what valuable questions does Tami Hoag?s novel pose about our current crisis?

4. ?In his experience, crime almost always turned out to be depressingly, stupidly simple. Criminal masterminds were the stuff of movies and TV. People did what they did for simple reasons --- money, lust, jealousy, fear. Pick a thread and follow it to the end. Luck was seldom necessary.? What do you make of Detective Nick Fourcade?s philosophy that he doesn?t ?believe in luck? --- just in human nature --- when solving crimes?

5. There is a lot at stake between detectives/spouses Annie and Nick. How does their relationship as romantic partners and colleagues complicate their work, and the things they choose to share with one another? Could you (or do you) work alongside your partner in the same way? What sort of boundaries need to be in place between work/home to keep the peace?

6. In Tami Hoag?s novels, the vibrant Louisiana bayou setting is as essential as the characters themselves. How does the fictional town of Bayou Breaux become an integral part of the plot?

7. We?re told that B?Lynn and her husband wanted ?to raise their kids in the safety and sanity of a small town, where life was simple and bad things didn?t happen --- or so they had naively believed.? Do you think the comfort of small town safety still rings true for people? Do you think the small town atmosphere allowed bad things to happen in secret --- or would they still have happened anywhere?

8. As we discover more about what took place, Nick thinks to himself that there isn?t really a cut-and-dried villain in this case. Do you find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that there isn?t a bad guy to hate? Or do you think it?s more true-to-life that the truth comes with shades of gray?

9. One of the themes explored in BAD LIAR is the tenuous bond of relationships that inevitably change over time. Looking at Izzy helping Tulsie, B?Lynn helping Robbie or Dozer helping Marc, do you think there is such a thing as going ?too far? to help someone who is important to you?

Author Bio

Tami Hoag is the #1 international bestselling author of more than 30 books. There are more than 40 million copies of her books in print in more than 30 languages. Renowned for combining thrilling plots with character-driven suspense, Hoag first hit the *New York Times* bestseller list with NIGHT SINS, and each of her books since has been a bestseller. She lives in California.

Bad Liar

by Tami Hoag

Publication Date: July 29, 2025
Genres: Fiction, Mystery, Suspense, Thriller
Paperback: 432 pages
Publisher: Dutton
ISBN-10: 1101985453
ISBN-13: 9781101985458