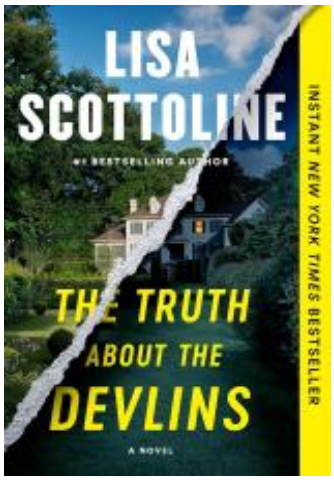
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The Truth About the Devlins

by Lisa Scottoline



About the Book

Lisa Scottoline, the #1 bestselling author of WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BENNETTS, presents another pulse-pounding domestic thriller about family, justice and the lies that tear us apart.

TJ Devlin is the charming disappointment in the prominent Devlin family, all of whom are lawyers at their highly successful firm --- except him. After a stint in prison and rehab for alcoholism, TJ can?t get hired anywhere except at the firm, in a make-work job with the title of investigator.

But one night, TJ?s world turns upside down after his older brother, John, confesses that he murdered one of their clients, an accountant he?d confronted with proof of embezzlement. It seems impossible coming from John, the firstborn son and Most Valuable Devlin.

TJ plunges into the investigation, seizing the chance to prove his worth and save his brother. But in no time, TJ and John find themselves entangled in a lethal web of deception and murder. TJ will fight to save his family, but what he learns might break them first.

Discussion Guide

1. TJ is considered the black sheep of the Devlin family. Did you think his status changed over the course of the novel? In which instances do we see TJ ?save? his family, and which moments of ?saving? is he credited for?

2. TJ demonstrates great empathy in his role as an investigator. Where do you think this ability stems from?

3. For the sake of his family, TJ is forced to keep some secrets, putting himself at greater punitive risk than his ?perfect? siblings. Why does TJ choose to take this risk? Why do you think John specifically chose to confide in TJ?

4. Both John and Gabby, for different reasons, ask TJ for his help. To what extent does TJ have a reciprocal relationship with his siblings? How does birth order play a part in the respective familial expectations placed on them?

5. TJ is so embroiled in the investigations for his siblings that he can barely keep himself afloat. With an eye toward achieving full recovery, did you agree with the choices TJ made during the novel?

6. When TJ?s mother accuses him of lying, she warns him to stay out of trouble ?because [she?s] tired of being afraid for [him].? Did you think this was a fair statement? To what extent is addiction criminalized when it comes to accusations against TJ?

7. At the end of the day, the Devlins are both a family and business. How does this duality complicate TJ?s role as an outsider? How does it inform the lengths he goes to to protect his family members? Discuss whether it?s best to keep family and business separate.

8. Be it by the work of TJ?s father or brother, TJ manages to keep his name out of Rigel?s accident. To what extent are John or Paul?s efforts for TJ self-serving? Do the Devlins really look out for one another?

9. TJ is haunted by the fact that nobody truly believes he has changed. Why do others struggle to see his growth, and why does this matter to him? Discuss how he recreates his identity through the course of the novel.

10. Carrie, TJ?s ex, and Nancy, John?s wife, are two of the Devlins? interpersonal casualties. Discuss their purpose in the novel. How do they compare to Gabby and TJ?s mother?

11. Author Lisa Scottoline sheds light on the real-life atrocities of medical experimentation on Black prisoners, through the story of Gabby?s case. Discuss how this story thread amplified TJ?s journey throughout the novel.

12. In honor of the title, discuss what ?truths? the Devlins are forced to reckon with about themselves. Do you think they finally faced them?

Author Bio

Lisa Scottoline is the #1 bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author of 38 novels. She is the President of Mystery Writers of America and has been named a Thriller Master by International Thriller Writers. A former trial lawyer, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and its law school, where she taught Justice & Fiction, a course she developed. Lisa also co-wrote a series of humorous memoirs with her daughter, novelist Francesca Serritella. There are 30 million copies of Lisa?s books in print, and she is published in 35 countries. She lives on a Pennsylvania farm with an array of disobedient pets, and she wouldn?t have it any other way.

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