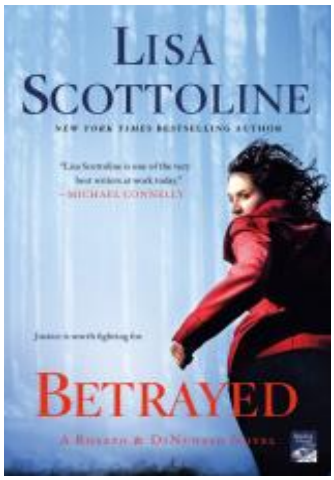
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

Betrayed: A Rosato & DiNunzio Novel

by Lisa Scottoline



About the Book

Blockbuster author Lisa Scottoline returns to the Rosato & Associates law firm with BETRAYED, and maverick lawyer Judy Carrier takes the lead in a case that's more personal than ever. Judy has always championed the underdog, so when Iris, the housekeeper and best friend of Judy's beloved Aunt Barb, is found dead of an apparent heart attack, Judy begins to suspect foul play. The circumstances of the death leave Judy with more questions than answers, and never before has murder struck so close to home.

In the meantime, Judy's own life roils with emotional and professional upheaval. She doesn't play well with her boss, Bennie Rosato, which jeopardizes her making partner at the firm. Not only that, her best friend Mary DiNunzio is planning a wedding, leaving Judy feeling left behind, as well as newly unhappy in her relationship with her live-in boyfriend Frank.

Judy sets her own drama aside and begins an investigation of Iris's murder, then discovers a shocking truth that confounds her expectations and leads her in a completely different direction. She finds herself plunged into a shadowy world of people who are so desperate that they cannot go to the police, and where others are so ruthless that they prey on vulnerability. Judy finds strength within herself to try to get justice for Iris and her aunt --- but it comes at a terrible price.

Discussion Guide

1. Judy and Mary are best friends, but they are very different. For instance, Judy is more able to take risks and roll with the punches than Mary, who likes to plan, process, and is generally more timid. Are you a Judy or Mary? Do you take risk easily or do you avoid it? As you get older, do you take more risks, or less?

2. In BETRAYED, Judy investigates a death she believes is a murder, and she does this because she cares about justice. Justice is at the heart of so many of Lisa's books, because she believes that it is a powerful motivator for people, as it is

for her. As a lawyer, Lisa learned that in the profession it is called the "justice bone." It is a strong urge to see that the right thing happens, and even to make things right, when others are not. Do you have a "justice bone?" Have you ever spoken up, when others would not? What was the result?

3. Judy and her mother vary on their opinions of illegal immigrants, although through their experiences in the book, they both learn a lot about the issue. In writing the book, Lisa did extensive research on the topic, and learned a lot herself. Do you identify more with Judy or her mother? What did you learn about illegal immigration that you did not previously know? After reading the book did your opinion change at all? If so, how?

4. Judy and Mary would likely disagree on some of their views of illegal immigrations as well. How do you and your best friend handle situations in which you disagree? Do you avoid topics such as politics, religion or other hot button topics, or do you enjoy discussing them with someone you are close with? What is the most significant thing that you and your best friend disagree about?

5. Harvesting mushrooms is not a pleasant or an easy job, and one that many would not be willing to do. What is the worst job you have ever had? What was your favorite job? What jobs would you never be willing to do? What job do you wish you had?

6. Many industries are supported by illegal workers, and has become an "open secret" that is often ignored by the government and law enforcement. Why do you think this is true? If you were in political office, what changes would you suggest in dealing with this important issue?

7. Having spent so much time with Mary's warm, loving and emotional family, Judy has come to the realization that her family was connected through activities, more than a solid emotional connection. What kind of connection does your family have? In what ways is Judy's mother similar to your mother? In what ways is she different? What are your favorite family memories? What is one thing you would change about your family?

8. Lisa often explores, researches and writes about issues that are relevant to women, and in BETRAYED, she tackles the extremely important topic of breast cancer. What are some other women's issues that you would like to see Lisa write about? What do you think is the most important issue facing women today? In what ways can women be more supportive of other women?

9. The idea of the traditional family is blurred in BETRAYED. For a variety of reasons, sometimes we need to create family, and we find it through friendships, communities or churches. Besides your blood family, who in your life do you consider family?

10. In BETRAYED, Judy feels like she "blew her lead." She is feeling left behind as her best friend makes partner, and is getting married. Do you think it is possible to be happy for someone else, even though you might be jealous at the same time? If Mary wasn't getting married, do you think Judy would still have felt discontent in her relationship? When you feel jealous, does it motivate you to work harder for what you want, or does it bring you down? In what ways do you think Judy and Mary's relationship will change when Mary gets married?

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.

Betrayed: A Rosato & DiNunzio Novel

by Lisa Scottoline

Publication Date: September 8, 2015
Genres: Fiction, Mystery
Paperback: 384 pages
Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin
ISBN-10: 1250074363
ISBN-13: 9781250074362