



Book Club Questions

A Killing Cold by Kate Alice Marshall

1. Theo cannot remember much from her early life, but some memories come back to her sometimes. How do these memories affect her thoughts about her place in the Dalton family?
2. How does having no recollection of her life before age four affect her sense of identity and her relationships, especially with Connor?
3. Should Theo have told Connor more details of her past? Why do you think she did not?
4. Connor is charming, but also complex. There are potential conflicts regarding his loyalty to his family versus his relationship with Theo. How did your perception of Connor evolve throughout the book? Do you believe he was fully aware of his family's secrets, or was he as in the dark as Theo initially was?
5. The Dalton family plays a key role in the novel, with each member hiding their secrets and reasons for their actions. Talk about which family members you found most interesting or suspicious. How do their actions and the family's past contribute to the eerie feeling and suspense at Idlewood?
6. How does trust develop or break among the characters, especially for Theo and the Dalton family? How does the deception among them increase the psychological tension in the story?
7. Do any characters in the novel fit typical thriller or gothic roles, or do they change those roles unexpectedly? How does Marshall use these character types to keep the reader engaged?
8. How does the Dalton family's wealth help them keep their dark secrets and avoid consequences? Can you give examples of their corrupt behavior enabled by their privilege?
9. How does the Dalton family's fear of losing their privilege corrupt their morals and affect their decisions about Theo and their discoveries? What does the book say about the cost of preserving wealth and status?
10. Which characters from the Dalton family were most unlikable, and how did their traits affect your reading experience and the unfolding mystery? Do you think the author made them unlikable on purpose?
11. How does the winter retreat at Idlewood create suspense and reflect the emotional struggles and secrets of the Dalton family?
12. How did you find the pacing of the secrets reveal and Theo's recovered memories? Were the twists surprising and compelling?
13. Discuss how exploring potentially unreliable memory impacts the narrative and your experience as a reader trying to piece together the truth.