

# Questions for your book club

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- How do we feel about Lisa and her nervousness at the start of the book?
- Is Lisa's relationship with Ava realistic for a mother and teenage daughter?
- How do our feelings towards Lisa change after the twist/reveal a third of the way through?
- Ava has secrets from her mother – do her secrets reflect modern dangers for teenagers today? Is Ava a character that's hard to like?
- As the book moves into part two, the narrative is told from interwoven past and present sections. Did you find this effective? Did it change your perspective on the characters?
- What themes did you detect in the book?
- How did Lisa/Charlotte's journey make you feel about 'trial by media'?
- Did Lisa/Charlotte's journey make you re-evaluate cases such as that of Mary Bell?
- How would you describe *Cross Her Heart*? A fast-paced thriller or an emotional rollercoaster Which do you think the author intended?

- The first person narrator viewpoint is used for all three main female characters; Lisa, Ava and Marilyn. This technique is used a lot in recent psychological thrillers – do you find it effective?
- Some difficult subject matter is covered in the book – domestic violence and child abuse – how effectively did the author handle this material? Did it have an emotional impact of any kind?
- Which of the three main characters did you like the most and why? Were they a well-balanced character group?
- How did you see the role of men in *Cross Her Heart*? What do you think the author was trying to say about gender dynamics in relationships?
- What does the book have to say about women's friendships throughout different stages of our lives?
- How did you feel at the end of *Cross Her Heart*? Was it a satisfying conclusion? Did it leave you with hope for the characters' futures?