



The Dead Season

Book Club Questions

-In *The Dead Season*, Shana Merchant finds herself returning to her hometown of Swanton, VT to unofficially investigate her uncle's death. Discuss why Shana has been determined to stay away for so long, and the push and pull she feels between her old life and her new home in the Thousand Islands.

-Memory plays a large role in this novel. In order to decode Bram's clues, Shana must probe her childhood memories. Considering what she went through during her abduction, do you think she can truly trust her memory of past events? Have you ever misremembered a key event from your own past?

-In this book, you meet Shana's extended family and learn about her personal history. In what ways did her family shape her character, and what impact do family members like Felicia and Crissy have on her now?

-Sheriff Maureen McIntyre ("Mac"), who was introduced in *Death in the Family*, features more prominently in this story. Discuss the role she plays in Shana's life, and why Shana might feel so connected to her.

-There are multiple twists in this story. Which one was your favorite? How important was it to the plot and to building suspense?

-How does Shana's character evolve in this second book of the Shana Merchant series? Do you think she would be ready, both professionally and emotionally, to take on Blake Bram again?

-Predating the 19th century, when Charles Dickens used them in his hugely popular serialized novels, cliffhanger endings have long been a staple in fiction. How do you feel about this narrative tool and the ending of *The Dead Season*?