



Summary

Jason Bennett is a suburban dad who owns a court-reporting business, but one night, his life takes a horrific turn. He is driving his family home after his daughter's field hockey game when a pickup truck begins tailgating them, on a dark stretch of road. Suddenly two men jump from the pickup and pull guns on Jason, demanding the car. A horrific flash of violence changes his life forever.

Later that awful night, Jason and his family receive a visit from the FBI. The agents tell them that the carjackers were members of a dangerous drug-trafficking organization—and now Jason and his family are in their crosshairs.

The agents advise the Bennetts to enter the witness protection program right away, and they have no choice but to agree. But WITSEC was designed to protect criminal informants, not law-abiding families. Taken from all they know, trapped in an unfamiliar life, the Bennetts begin to fall apart at the seams. Then Jason learns a shocking truth and realizes that he has to take matters into his own hands.



About the Author

Lisa Scottoline is a # New York Times bestselling and Edgar Award–winning author of thirty-two novels which have sold over 30 million copies in thirty-five countries. She also writes a weekly column with her daughter Francesca Serritella for The Philadelphia Inquirer titled “Chick Wit”—a witty and fun take on life from a woman’s perspective. Lisa reviews popular fiction and nonfiction, and her reviews have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Philadelphia Inquirer, and she has also served as president of Mystery Writers of America. Visit her online at Scottoline.com.

Discussion Questions

- In the novel's early chapters, Jason reflects a lot on his old life and lost home. What do you think this novel is trying to say about the suburbs and their importance to the American family?
- Several characters in the novel cite their everyday "superpowers." Jason's lipreading, or Allison's texting without looking at the keyboard, for example. How else do you think this novel explores the heroism of everyday people?
- How do you think the events of the novel would have unfolded differently if Allison had survived the attack?
- If the FBI advised your family to join a WITSEC program, would you go? Why?
- If you were to join a WITSEC program, who would you most regret not being able to tell? Why?
- If you had to leave your home suddenly, which objects would be the most poignant for you to leave behind, and why?
- Discuss the different ways in which Jason, Lucinda, and Ethan experience their grief. Do you think that these differences reflect the underlying cracks in Jason and Lucinda's marriage?
- What was your favorite quote or passage, and why?
- The novel has many twists and turns. Did you guess any of them ahead of time? If so, at which point, and why?
- The book features many different parent-child relationships. Jason and his father, Lucinda and her mother, Allison and Jason, Allison and Lucinda, Junior and Big George. Did one or several relationships strike you as healthier or happier than the others, and why?

Discussion Questions cont'd

- Do you think Jason's motivation to take action into his own hands went beyond the desire to protect his family from Milo? What else do you think might have affected his decisions?
- What do you think this novel is trying to say about various forms of justice? Legal, emotional, and interpersonal?
- What do you imagine will happen to the Bennetts after the novel's end? How do you see Jason, Lucinda, and Ethan changing in the wake of these incidents?
- Scottoline believes that novels build empathy, nurture the self, and connect us by the truths they contain. Did this novel change the way you think about family, justice, or the American dream?