



Summary

Hana Babic is a quiet, middle-aged librarian in Minnesota who wants nothing more than to be left alone. But when a detective arrives with the news that her best friend has been murdered, Hana knows that something evil has come for her, a dark remnant of the past she and her friend had shared.

Thirty years before, Hana was someone else: Nura Divjak, a teenager growing up in the mountains of war-torn Bosnia—until Serbian soldiers arrived to slaughter her entire family before her eyes. The events of that day thrust Nura into the war, leading her to join a band of militia fighters, where she became not only a fierce warrior but a legend—the deadly Night Mora. But a shattering final act forced Nura to flee to the United States with a bounty on her head.

Now, someone is hunting Hana, and her friend has paid the price, leaving her eight-year-old grandson in Hana's care. To protect the child without revealing her secret, Hana must again become the Night Mora—and hope she can find the killer before the past comes for them, too.



About the Author

Allen Eskens is the bestselling author of *The Life We Bury*, *The Guise of Another*, *The Heavens May Fall*, *The Deep Dark Descending*, *The Shadows We Hide*, *Nothing More Dangerous*, *The Stolen Hours*, *Forsaken Country*, *Saving Emma*, and his latest novel, *The Quiet Librarian*.

He is the recipient of the Barry Award, Minnesota Book Award, Left Coast Crime Award, and Silver Falchion Award and has been a finalist for the Edgar® Award, Thriller Award, Anthony Award and Nero Award. His books have been translated into 23 languages. Allen has a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota and a law degree from Hamline University. After law school, he studied creative writing in the M.F.A. program at Minnesota State University-Mankato, as well as the Loft Literary Center and the Iowa Summer Writer's Festival. Allen grew up in the hills of central Missouri. He now lives with his wife, Joely, in greater Minnesota where he recently retired after practicing criminal law for 25 years.

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Discussion Questions

1. Before reading *The Quiet Librarian*, what did you know or remember about the war in Bosnia?
2. How does the blue marble act as a thread connecting various aspects of the two plot lines?
3. In Chapter 22, Nura makes a decision while fighting on the side of a mountain. If you had been in her shoes, would you have made the same decision? If not, what would you have done?
4. Babo tells Hana that men have the capacity for good as much as they have the capacity for cruelty. What is right and what is wrong is written on our hearts, but when there is war, men follow what they choose to follow and rationalize the evil they do. Are there parallels to this sentiment in any present-day circumstances?
5. How did Hana and Amina deal with their trauma differently?
6. Should David Claypool have turned in his badge at the end of the story?
7. Do you know anyone in your life that lives a quiet life but has an incredible past?
8. Would you consider this book to be historical fiction, mystery, thriller, or something else?
9. Would you like to see a future book that revolves around the characters from this novel, or do you think this is the end of Hana's story? If you think another story would be good, whose story and why?

<https://alleneskens.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Quiet-Librarian-book-club-questions.pdf>