BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

***Guilt by Association***

1. Tess is hesitant to visit her mother in Boone County, and she feels claustrophobic in the trailer where she grew up. List some specific examples in this book when Pearletta Vee let her daughter down. Do you feel Tess is right to distrust her mom, or do you think she should be quicker to forgive and forget?

2. There are many references to Nancy Drew books in this series, with Tess described as Nancy, Charlotte as George, and Rosemary as Bess. In *Guilt by Association*, Rosemary takes center stage. Did you miss seeing more of Charlotte, or did you enjoy getting to know Rosemary better? How does Rosemary contrast with Charlotte?

3. Drugs are a focal point of this mystery, for good reason. In West Virginia, just about every person you meet will have at least one family member addicted to drugs. Many families have been ripped apart by this epidemic; many children have been taken into foster care. Is there a drug epidemic in your state? What are some specific things you can do to step in and make a difference for "the least of these" who have been affected?

4. Do you know someone who has fostered children or adopted? What kind of issues do you think Thomas and Tess might face when they take Brady into their home?

5. There was a pivotal, revealing moment involving Axel Becker's accent in this book. How do you think that revelation might play into future books in the series?

6. Describe Thomas and Tess' marriage in two words. In what tangible ways does Thomas show respect for Tess' thoughts and opinions?

7. Have you ever met someone with such a forceful personality as Detective Zeke Tucker, whose presence alone seems to deter evildoers? Why do you think Tess is somewhat immune to Zeke's powerful presence?

8. Tess forgives her mother, and it seems genuine. But she does draw some boundaries, such as that she won't be letting her mom babysit Mira Brooke alone for a while. We also see that Tess isn't anywhere near ready to forgive her father for walking out on them when she was a child. Is her determination not to see him again her own version of personal boundary-setting, or do you think she needs to forgive him too? If so, how do you think she needs to go about it? Have you experienced a time when you've forgiven someone but you've had to set boundaries so that person won't hurt you again?