

THE SOUND OF REGRET

READING GROUP GUIDE

1. How do you resolve virtues like honesty and kindness when they compete or collide?
2. Are people born with a “bad brain,” or is it largely environmental?
3. Is the courtroom a joint pursuit of the truth or just two sides fighting and hoping the truth emerges?
4. Is it purely nostalgia, or is there a connection among those who went to high school together?
5. If malice is all you see, does it become all you think exists?
6. Bones cuts corners, often with good intentions, but does the intent matter or just the conduct?
7. Are there limits to loyalty?
8. Is honesty always the best policy, or can the truth make people hurt even more?
9. Can the so-called war on drugs ever be won?
10. Is it okay to threaten or mislead witnesses to get them to cooperate?
11. What does being falsely accused do to a person’s soul?
12. Do we put low-level drug dealers in an impossible position when the options are long prison sentences or informing on others so they in turn get long prison sentences?
13. What do you think of the fact that prosecutors have to turn everything over to the defense, but the defense turns over next to nothing to prosecutors?
14. What does it say about human nature that we are more likely to be killed by those we know or who claim to love us than by a stranger?
15. Some characters in the book coped with death by leaning on their faith. For others, it drove them away from their faith. Why the difference?
16. Some characters believed in the afterlife. Others believed it was simply the absence of pain. If we were immortal, would anyone have spiritual beliefs?

