

Discussion Questions

1. In the beginning of the novel, we are introduced to Ashleigh's fiancé, Mitchell Wainwright. Why is she now rethinking her decision to marry him? Has he actually changed since the day he slipped the over-the-top diamond on her finger or is it an illusion? What might cause a drastic change in him?
2. The author does not mention that Ted, Danielle's husband, is aware of her former relations with Conrad. Do you think Ted was possibly jealous of Conrad and believed that Danielle was still romantically involved with him?
3. Jerome, the president of Bentleys, played a strong role in the lives of his employees. Does his overbearing attitude negatively impact the work conditions of his employees? Could this be why Adele, Danielle's overseer, treats her harshly and sabotages the young buyer?
4. Danielle's brother, Dan, tells Ashleigh that their mother never showed any love or compassion for her daughter. Does this underpin Danielle's acceptance of being in an abusive relationship with Ted? How has her mother's indifference toward Danielle affected her work life, which Ashleigh has described as Danielle's "world"?
5. What does Mitchell Wainwright's decision to remove Dick Landes from the case signify? What do you think Wainwright feared the investigator might find?
6. Bradley appears to sit back and follow Tony's orders though he clearly disagrees with them. Why does Bradley continue to allow Tony to take charge in these situations?
7. Bradley is sympathetic toward Ashleigh and Danielle and cannot ignore the guilt he feels about the wrongdoings he and Tony have committed. Why does he feel this way about the two women but not about Tony's father?
8. What lay behind Danielle's downward spiraling career? Had her failing health not been a factor, what might Danielle's fate have been? What would your ideal ending to this novel be?