

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. *Fractured* begins with John at his front window, spying on the house across the street. What is it about living in close proximity to someone else that gives people the need to know what is going on in their lives? Have you ever been “caught looking”?
2. Julie and her family initially tried to fit in to their new neighborhood in Cincinnati but were not very successful. Why do you think that is? Was there really something about Julie that was just “off”?
3. What did you think of Cindy? Why does everyone in the neighborhood seem to kowtow to her? What power does she hold over them?
4. When famous people have stalkers, the public sometimes lacks compassion or treats it as a normal side effect of celebrity. Did you feel bad for Julie? Did she “deserve” all that unwanted attention just because she wrote a bestselling novel?

5. Julie began to experience more “stalking” behaviors once she moved to Cincinnati, including prank phone calls, and the mutilation of her daughter’s doll. At one point, Daniel thought that Julie was doing these things herself—a sort of Munchausen syndrome with phone pranks instead of faked physical ailments. Did you think Julie was faking it? What do you think of Daniel hiring a private investigator to look into his wife’s behavior?
6. What did you think of John’s character? He calls himself an “asshole” for having feelings for Julie, and does some questionable things throughout the novel, including coming on to Julie and giving alcohol to a recovering alcoholic. Yet we also see him as a caring father and husband. Is it rare to find characters in novels who are similar to how we are in real life—not all good, but not all bad, either?
7. Throughout the novel we know something tragic has happened, but not to whom or how. What did you think happened prior to the final reveal? What tricks did the author use to make you think that?
8. When Julie’s book became successful, she started a secret bank account so that her husband wouldn’t feel emasculated by how much money she was making. He was clearly uncomfortable on the vacation they took to Mexico, knowing that he couldn’t

have afforded to bring his family there on his own income. Why do you think this double standard persists?

9. Do you think Chris intended to run over Julie that morning? Ashley? Or was it truly an accident? If he had intended to run over Julie, should he still be punished for killing Ashley?

10. People assumed that the main character in Julie's book was based on her, and/or that she had some involvement in Kathryn's death because she wrote a book about something similar. While the old admonition to "write what you know" often holds true, why do we jump to the conclusion that what an author writes about is autobiographical? Is there anything in *Fractured* that you think might have really happened in Catherine McKenzie's life?