

READING GUIDE

GUIDELINES

Death Angel by Martha Powers

- 1) At the beginning of the book, Kate Warner appears to have a happy marriage and a wonderful life. As the story continues and we see her life in some perspective, does your opinion change? What forces do you think have contributed to the formation of her character?
- 2) Women who live in the shadow of their husbands sometimes fail to mature as three-dimensional women. They fail to create a life separate from their husbands and/or their children. Is this just a function of high profile men or is this a problem in many marriages?
- 3) We think the role of women has changed dramatically in the last decades but is this really true? Do you consider the role of the dominant husband and subservient wife a form of abuse?
- 4) Do you think Kate's unconditional belief in Richard is unrealistic? Should she be more suspicious of him than she is? Could she continue to remain with him if she begins to distrust him?
- 5) Schools, police and parents spend a great deal of time warning children about "Stranger Danger". Do you think there is more of a threat to our children from strangers or friends and relatives?
- 6) We are told that revenge is sweet. Is there a basic need for revenge in the public psyche? Is that why we have such a difficult time banning the death penalty? Is there some primal need to avenge a hurt?
- 7) It's been said that in periods of economic and psychological distress, mystery books and suspense movies are more popular. Do you find that the feel good ending of most of these stories where the evildoer comes to justice helps to restore the feeling that eventually life will get better?
- 8) How does Kate Warner change through the progression of the story? Are her reactions what you would expect from a woman of her background? Is the ending believable?
- 9) So often in mysteries and on television the police are not portrayed in a favorable light? Answers come easily without much of the boring investigative work. Do you feel that Carl and the other detectives' investigations are realistically shown?
- 10) Were you surprised at the identity of the murderer? Did the ending surprise you? Was it acceptable?