

GLASS HOUSES Reading Group Guide

CAUTION: *This reading guide contains spoilers.*

About *Glass Houses*:

How does one repair a life unraveled? Apparently not easily for cousins Birdie and Thom Keane who team up to solve murder in this thrilling sequel to *Burden of Truth*. Equal parts family drama, police procedural, and tragedy, *Glass Houses* is also a modern examination of Los Angeles housing issues.

1. Why did Birdie write the article about the Blue Bandits? Despite her passion for the Paige Street murder was it necessary she be the one to expose the truth to the public?
2. *Burden of Truth* dealt with themes of love, loss, secrets, and lies. How has *Glass Houses* continued and deepened those themes? What additional themes are present?
3. Birdie, Ron, Thom, and Anita all have strong identities. How do the characters' various identities affect their personalities?
4. Birdie's recovery now no longer includes just alcoholism. How have the crimes against her played a part in her life? Why is seeing these recoveries so important? And what role does weakness and vulnerability play in her current dealings with Thom?
5. How has Birdie's road to sobriety affected her personality? Are those changes helping or hindering her search for the missing person and her current recoveries?
6. Despite being proven mortal in the past, why does Birdie continually put herself in dangerous situations? Is her persistence/stubbornness a weakness or strength?
7. How has Birdie's additional recoveries affected her relationship with Ron?
8. Is it possible Ron is a vice of Birdie's meant to replace Matt, similar to gum chewing to replace drinking? Can Birdie ever quit Matt? Should she?
9. What will Birdie's next move be in her search for the truth from the missing person? What is Ron's? Frank's?
10. Why did Mayo reach out to Birdie specifically? What was Mayo trying to accomplish?
11. Who is Mayo?
12. What role does Noa play in the novel? How has his presence affected Ron, Thom, and Birdie?
13. Why was it so important for Thom and Birdie to let go of the case? What did the letting go symbolize for each of them? How could they do it seemingly so easy?
14. What will happen with the Dead Fish case in Anita's hands? Do you think she'll catch the killer(s)?
15. Why wasn't the capture of the killer seen on the page? How did not seeing this occurrence affect the tone of the novel's ending?
16. Which character is most relate-able? Believable?
17. Who stands out as a breakthrough character?