

## MARY JANE CLARK

### *It Only Takes a Moment: Questions for Book Clubs*

**General themes for discussion:** *Child kidnapping, the loss of a child, the role of psychics in police work, the effects of infidelity on relationships, pedophilia and the justice system, immigration, the effects of tragedy on a marriage, dreams, child safety, the invasiveness of the media, the consolation of friends and neighbors when tragedy strikes, the danger faced by TV personalities from their fans.*

1. In *Moment*, Eliza Blake's daughter Janie, and her housekeeper Mrs. Garcia, are kidnapped. As you read Eliza's reactions, did you sense that she reacted the way you would have? How do you suppose being in the national spotlight as a television news anchor affected her? Given the professional resources at her disposal, was it easier, or more difficult, for Eliza than it would have been for someone less famous?
2. How do you think you would have reacted to Stephanie Quick's offer to help? Given how the use of psychics in police work has increased over the years, what do you think about Eliza's reliance on Stephanie's dreams?
3. How did you react to the prologue, describing Eliza forcing herself to walk up to a small casket? Did it spark your interest in the story? Have you ever known someone who has lost a child? Have you ever found it difficult to offer condolences?
4. The Sunrise Suspense Society get along very well at work. Do you want to know more about their personal lives? Who do you feel you know best? What do you think of B.J. D'Elia? Do you feel that the women appreciate B.J.'s "male" perspective?
5. How does Eliza change over the course of the book? In what ways were you able to empathize with her reactions to the aftermath of the kidnapping? Where do you suppose Eliza found her inner strength?
6. Mack McBride raced home from London to be with Eliza. Their relationship has been rocky, due to Mack's infidelity. What do you think of Eliza's emotional reliance on Mack in light of his fall from grace?
7. Rhonda and Dave Billings' marriage has suffered because of the death of their daughter. How does tragedy affect a marriage? Do you suppose there are any indicators that a tragedy will draw a couple more closely together or drive them apart?
8. What affected Isabelle's desire to protect her brother Hughie from the police? What did you feel about Hughie and Isabelle's relationship?
9. Did you feel that Mrs. Garcia did everything possible to keep Janie safe? How did the immigrant status of Carmen's daughter and son-in-law influence their reaction to the kidnapping?
10. Given the dire circumstances they were investigating, it was difficult for Annabelle and B.J. to kid each other in their usual way. What do you ordinarily think of the camaraderie among Annabelle, B.J., Margo and Eliza?