

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you know that Tess Gerritsen is also a trained physician? How can you see her firsthand knowledge of emergency and autopsy rooms reflected in this book and in her main characters?
2. If you're a *Rizzoli & Isles* fan, you'll notice the key difference in *Listen to Me* is that Jane's mother, Angela, is looking into a mystery of her own. Did you enjoy Angela's point of view? Did it change the way you perceived either Jane or Angela?
3. Maura and Jane are willing to do anything for each other, even in the face of danger. Have you ever had to do anything like what Maura does for Jane?
4. Maura says, "No information is useless. It's just a key waiting for the right lock to open." What was your favorite discovery or reveal in the book? Did you anticipate any of them? What was the most surprising or unexpected moment in the novel?
5. While reflecting on the case, Jane says "So many distracting details. So many ways to lose sight of the killer." There were many red herrings in *Listen to Me*. Which ones did you fall for? Were they effective in diverting attention away from the real culprits? Compare your list of suspects for both Jane's case and Angela's case—did any of them end up being the killer?
6. Barry Frost did not believe in gut feelings, only in facts. He once told Jane, "When a cop relies on his instinct, it often leaves him blind to the truth." What do you think he means by this? Do you agree?
7. When running into the Leopold house after hearing gunshots, Angela believed her neighbors would follow her to help, but only Agnes follows. Angela says the others, Jonas and Matthew Green, are cowards for not helping. Do you think that's fair? Why or why not? What do you think makes someone a coward?
8. Every mother-daughter relationship looks different. How does Jane and Angela's relationship develop in the novel? And how does their relationship compare to Amy and Julianne's relationship? Which relationship most closely resembles your relationship with your daughter and/or mother?
9. Angela Rizzoli says "Does anyone *really* look at their own mother? We're just there, as reliable as gravity." What do you think Angela means by this? Do you agree or disagree? How was this statement substantiated throughout the novel?
10. In the end, why do you think Amy still wants to see her mother, and even cares about her opinions? What does this say about their relationship, and what do you see happening in their future? What would you do in Amy's situation?

