



READING GUIDE

1. Why does Shelly place so much importance on the eight minutes? Why doesn't Eric?
2. Shelly's first inkling of a problem with Toby is the oatmeal cream pies. When would you get worried?
3. What do you make of Lakshmi and Shelly's friendship? Do you believe Lakshmi was a positive influence on Shelly?
4. When did you think Eric's objections had gone too far? Why do you think he kept playing the game with Toby? What was in it for Eric?
5. Shelly has a surprising encounter with a psychic medium. Do you believe these mediums offer comfort to the grieving, or do you believe they make things worse?
6. Before they went to Branson, did you have hope for Shelly and Eric's marriage? Did their day at the lake make things better or worse?
7. After Branson, do you believe Shelly truly changed her mind about John Robberson? Or do you think she simply gave up?
8. Why do you think Kay wanted to come to Arizona? What was she hoping to gain? Why do you think she ran away?
9. When do you think Eric understood what was really going on? What eventually convinced him?
10. Pa and Ms. Pushpa give Shelly similar advice about how to deal with this new revelation. If Shelly had come to you at that point, what would you have advised?

