

HARD TO DIE QUESTIONS FOR READING GROUPS

1. How complicated was Theodosia's relationship with her father? How does it compare with your relationship to your own dad? Do you think their bond was healthy? Why or why not?
2. Richard Cox wants to restart his life after a stint as a Cold War spy. Do you think it's ever possible to walk away from such a life? Why or why not?
3. Theodosia disappeared at sea in early 1813. After reading this story, what do you think happened to her? Do you think anyone will ever solve the mystery of her disappearance?
4. Do you think Richard is immediately attracted to Theodosia, or is he grasping at anything to establish a normal life? Do you think his feelings change over the course of the book? If so, how?
5. The General believes his nefarious actions are justified because he's keeping America safe from the Soviet threat. Is it ever acceptable to commit a crime to protect people? Why or why not?
6. Theodosia blamed herself for her son's death. As a mother, is it ever possible to accept that some events lie beyond the bounds of parenting? Why or why not?
7. Do you believe Theo really saw her son? Or was it an illusion caused by her death?
8. Meriwether Lewis never married. Theodosia married in 1801 at the age of eighteen. We have no concrete evidence they ever met, let alone fell in love or had a passionate affair. Since their day, stories about their romance are unsubstantiated hearsay. However, other unsubstantiated stories, like the Viking sagas, have been proven true through modern archeology and science, at least in part. Do you believe historical rumors present lost bits of history, details skewed by the winners to reflect badly on their enemies or tarnish their legacies? Or do you believe historical rumors are as fictitious as the story woven in this book? Why or why not?