

BW

The Bri Watters Thriller Series



FOR BOOK CLUBS

Book Club *Discussion Kit*

What We Keep Silent & Whatever It Takes

KAREN GROSE



BEFORE YOU MEET

Welcome to the kit

Thanks for picking a Bri Watters thriller for your book club.

This kit has discussion questions for both books in the series, *What We Keep Silent* and *Whatever It Takes*. Each book stands on its own, so your group can read one or both, in any order.

You don't need to get through every question. Pick the ones that suit your group, skip the rest, and let the talk go wherever it goes. There's a little room under each question to jot down notes before the meeting.

One heads-up: the questions talk openly about twists and the ending, so it's best to share them once everyone has finished reading.

Karen loves visiting book clubs, in person or by video. If you'd like her to join your group, you can get in touch through briwattersthiller.com.

Happy reading!



Bri Watters, Burlington, Vermont



BOOK 1

What We Keep Silent

When her brother Ty is arrested for accessing confidential patient files at the Vermont hospital where they both work, Bri Watters is forced to face her past. A story of family secrets, blackmail, and the cost of silence.

13 discussion questions



BOOK 2

Whatever It Takes

Two years later, Bri is training as a private investigator. A stakeout goes wrong, the mayor of Burlington ends up dead, and a cold case drags the past into the present.

15 discussion questions



BOOK 1 · DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What We Keep Silent

A hospital data breach, a brother under arrest, and the family secrets Bri would rather keep buried.

- 1 In the wrong hands, a patient's private medical file tells a story no one consented to share. What would you do if your file was caught up in a data breach and contained personal information that bad actors threaten to expose?
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- 2 At the onset of the novel, Bri is struggling with life and her identity. What did you see as the turning point when she opted to tackle these issues head-on?
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- 3 Bri flees to Paris to escape the shadow of her past crimes, yet she immediately steps up to investigate Ty. Did you find Bri to be an admirable protagonist, or did you question her hypocrisy?
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- 4 Did Bri make any decisions you didn't agree with in response to the conflict in the novel? Did your perspective of her shift throughout the story?
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- 5 Most thrillers have a villain. How did you feel about getting up close and personal to this one?
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- 6 Rather than relying on explosive action, the novel builds suspense through "the powerful weight of silence" and fractured relationships. Did you find this quiet psychological tension more effective than a traditional action-packed thriller?
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- 7 When Ty is arrested, the Watters family immediately splits over whether he is guilty or innocent. How did this divide reflect the pre-existing cracks within the family?
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- 8 Contrast Bri's relationship with her brother Ty against her relationship with her "perfect" older sister, Amber. How does birth order or parental expectation influence how each sibling reacts to the crisis?
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- 9 How did you feel about the Watters' family chemistry? Do all families have moments where challenging dynamics prevail? How do they resolve them? Do they?
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- 10 Bri relies heavily on her best friend Zuri and private investigator Art Visser. How did these outside perspectives balance the heavy, insular drama of the Watters family?
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- 11 The novel illuminates the types of secrets meant to protect others vs. the secrets that destroy them. By the end of the book, do you think any of the characters were justified in what they kept silent?
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- 12 One of the core themes in the novel asks how society defines family. Traditionally institutions define family by blood, marriage and adoption. Modern society emphasizes a broader 'chosen definition'. Discuss the legal, structural, function and emotional components of family.
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- 13 The novel also explores ethics and morality. Bri wants to trust Ty, despite his history of getting into trouble. Is there ever a scenario where violating someone's privacy (like looking at confidential medical files) is ethically justified?
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BOOK 2 · DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Whatever It Takes

A stakeout gone wrong, a murdered mayor, and a cold case that drags the past into the present.

- 1 The plot kicks off with Bri and Art cramped in a car during a late-night stake-out. Yet it quickly evolves to demonstrate the power of technology. How did the novel use everyday technology—like search engines, wide-scale public surveillance, and anonymous, threatening text messages—to escalate the stakes and create a sense of paranoia?

- 2 How did the setting and atmosphere affect the mood and tone of the story? Did it create a sense of danger, mystery, dread or unease?

- 3 This book is part of a series. Did your group read the series in order? How has reading the books in order—or not reading them in order—affected your reading journey?

- 4 When we meet Bri in book two, how has she grown or changed?

- 5 How did the secondary characters influence or impact Bri's story?

- 6 Which character did you relate to most, and which one would be your ideal dinner guest?

- 7 How did *Whatever It Takes* explore themes such as justice, morality, revenge, loyalty and survival?

8 Did the story surprise you with the twists and turns in the plot? Did you see them coming or were you caught off guard? What was the most shocking scene or twist in the story and why?

9 Clues were sprinkled throughout the book. What did you know, and when did you know it? At what point in the book did you begin to piece together what was happening? At the half-way point, who did you think the culprit was? Did the clues come together in a satisfying way?

10 Were you surprised by the ending and who committed the crime? If you guessed who did it, what clues did you notice that made you suspect them? If you were surprised, who did you think it was going to be instead?

11 Were there certain ideas, descriptions or dialogue in the novel that you found interesting or revealing and stuck with you? What lines, if any, made you stop and think?

12 In many thrillers, the line between good and bad is blurred. Which characters did you find yourself empathizing with despite their questionable actions?

13 If you could give any character a piece of advice, what would you say to them?

14 How did this book, if at all, relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or create any connections about the impact of secrets or silence?

15 A good ending is essential to a crime thriller. It should ease up on the tension, answer questions and tidy up loose ends. Did the ending accomplish those goals? Was there anything left unanswered and if so, why do you think it was left that way?



Old crimes do not stay quiet.
They wait.

BRING KAREN TO YOUR GROUP

Invite the author

Karen Grose loves joining book clubs, library events and bookstore gatherings, in person or by video. If your group would like to talk with her about the books, she'd be glad to hear from you.

The series	www.briwattersthiller.com
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Karen Grose	www.karengrose.ca
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Publisher	www.sandylakepress.com
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