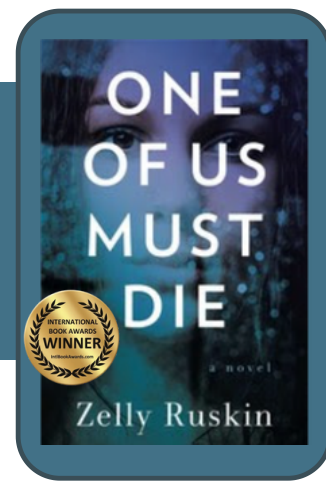
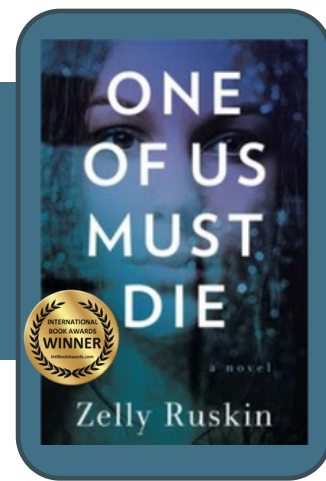


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- 1 Sterling describes herself as an “invisible woman.” When did you first see her begin reclaiming her identity? At what point did you start rooting for her?
- 2 As Sterling begins making morally gray choices, did your support for her ever waver? Were there moments when you questioned her decisions—even while understanding why she made them?
- 3 How does her name—Sterling—take on new meaning over the course of the story? Which moments best reflect her strength and resilience?
- 4 The Richardson family appears flawless from the outside. Why is maintaining that façade so important—and what does it ultimately cost everyone inside it?
- 5 Keith builds an entire false persona inside his marriage. At what point did it really sink in that Sterling never truly knew him at all? How well can we ever truly know the people closest to us?
- 6 Keith’s control often shows up in small, everyday ways (like the flipped toilet paper roll). Why are those subtle acts of manipulation sometimes more unsettling than overt cruelty?
- 7 How does Sterling’s relationship with her mother shape what she believes love, marriage, and motherhood are supposed to look like—and how does she try to do things differently with her own daughters?
- 8 Among the family dynamics in the novel, which relationships felt most genuine or supportive to you? Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- 9** Whitney's return shifts everything. What does their friendship say about loyalty and the power of being truly seen and believed? Do you have a favorite moment between them?
- 10** Which moment in the story gave you the first real sense of hope for Sterling?
- 11** Harper and Ella both show unexpected strength. What qualities do you think Sterling successfully passed on to her daughters?
- 12** The novel questions what it means to be a "good" mother or wife. Is self-sacrifice love—or can it sometimes become harmful?
- 13** Secrets and lies drive much of the tension. When, if ever, is keeping a secret acceptable?
- 14** When Keith is hit and Sterling must decide whether to sign the DNR, were you cheering for her or conflicted? Did her choice feel like justice, survival, revenge—or something else?
- 15** The story ultimately centers on reclaiming your life. By the end, how has Sterling redefined what happiness means for her—and what moments show that most clearly?