

Reading Group Guide for
Trapped
by Irene Hannon
(Contains spoilers!)

1. Laura and Darcy were practically strangers when Laura took in her half sister, and she had no experience with teens. How might this have contributed to the tension between them?
2. Do you know any teens who have run away? What prompted them to take that action? What can parents or guardians do to make sure their teens don't take this last-resort step?
3. Many people in this book feel guilty—Darcy, for contributing to her father's death and for disrupting Laura's life; Laura, for being too strict with Darcy; Dev, for letting personal feelings get in the way of doing his job, thus causing the death of the woman he loved. Is any of this guilt warranted? What are some things these characters could do to come to grips with their feelings of culpability?
4. Mark had a terrible childhood. Talk about how this manifested itself in his adult life. Identify the links between his feelings as a child and his actions as an adult.
5. What do you think drew Faith to Mark? Do you think she was actually in love with him, or merely infatuated? Why?
6. At one point in the book, Laura says that we can find God in small gestures of kindness even in the worst of times. Have you experienced that? Can you offer an example when a gesture of kindness brightened an otherwise dark day and reminded you of God's goodness?
7. When Laura's father died, she and her mother had very different ways of grieving, and that led to resentment. It took many years for that rift to mend. What are some ways we can deal with people whose behavior or philosophy doesn't mesh with ours—especially if they're family members—to avoid rifts?
8. Dev begins to fall for Laura very early in the story, even though she's not the type of woman he's usually interested in—as his co-workers teasingly point out. Besides the fact that she's attractive, what are some of the qualities that made her appeal to him?

9. Things heat up between Laura and Dev fairly quickly, but he abides by company policy and keeps her at arm's length until the case is over. Do you think it's wise to keep personal and professional relationships separate? Why or why not?
10. Most of the action in this story takes place in less than two weeks. Do you think that's too quickly for people to find common ground and suspect that a relationship has serious potential? What are some of the dangers of acting on those kinds of feelings too quickly? Why might a high-stress, intense situation like this intensify personal feelings?
11. Dev, Cal, and Connor have been best friends since their college days. Now they're successful business partners. Why do you think they've done so well as a team? What are some characteristics of good partnerships—be they personal or professional?
12. Nikki puts some people off by her punk-rocker appearance. Have you ever wrongly judged someone based on appearances? Did that affect your relationship with them going forward? How?
13. Were you surprised by Mark's actions at the end of the book? Why or why not?
14. Dev has seen the worst the world has to offer, and while he believes in God, he thinks the Almighty has given up on the human race and walked away in disgust. Do you know anyone who feels that way? How would you counsel them?
15. In the epilogue, Darcy sports a streak of neon color in her hair, and Laura says she's learned to pick her battles. Do you think this is a smart philosophy? Why or why not?
16. Did you find *Trapped* suspenseful? Did you think the plot was well constructed and credible, and the characters believable? Why or why not?
17. Talk about your impressions of this book from a literary standpoint—its strengths and weaknesses. Cite specific examples. If you were the author, would you have done anything differently?