

Takeover Discussion Questions

by Lisa Black

Author Bio: (Fantastic Fiction & Lisa Black's website)

Lisa Black was a forensic scientist at the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office, where she analyzed many forms of trace evidence, as well as crime scenes. She moved from Cleveland to Florida and now she works as a latent print examiner for the city of Cape Coral, Florida, police department, working mostly with fingerprints and crime scenes.



She wrote her first two books under the name Elizabeth Becka.

Characters:

- **Theresa (Tess) Maclean** – Forensic scientist with the Cleveland Medical Examiner's office. Has a daughter, Rachel. Divorced. Engaged to be married in two months to Detective Paul Cleary. 1st cousin to Detective Frank Patrick.
- **Chris Cavanaugh** – Hostage negotiator for the Cleveland Police's SRT (Special Response Team).
- **Cherise** – Savings bond teller. Snarky.
- **Paul Cleary** – Homicide Detective Cleveland police. Engaged to Theresa Maclean. Widowed.
- **Don Delgado** – DNA Analyst. Theresa's very good friend.
- **Peggy Elliott** – Head reference librarian at Cleveland Public Library.
- **Leo** – Theresa's boss. He is the Trace Evidence supervisor.
- **Jason** – Cavanaugh's SRT researcher.
- **Jessica Ludlow** – Secretary at the Federal Reserve. Married to Mark Ludlow. Has a two year old, Ethan.
- **Mark Ludlow** – Dead; found in bushes in front of house. Bank examiner for the Federal Reserve. Recently transferred from Atlanta to Cleveland. Has a wife, Jessica, and a son, Ethan.
- **Bobby Moyers** – One of the robbers. Owns the Pearl Mustang (getaway car). Grew up in Cleveland. Has been in and out of prison. Mother is deceased. Has a brother, Eric.
- **Eric Moyers** – Bobby Moyers' brother. Works for the airport.
- **Oliver** – Toxicology technician. Does not get along with anyone.
- **Lucas Winston Parris** – Second robber. Former military. Appears to be in charge.
- **Frank Patrick** – Homicide Detective. 20 year veteran of the Cleveland Police force. Partners with Paul Cleary. 1st cousin to Theresa Maclean.
- **Chief Viancourt** – Assistant Chief of Police. Affable man but promoted without many "police" skills.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. The book was written from multiple characters' points of view. Was it successfully done?
3. Would you consider this book a mystery? A crime procedural? A CSI-like book? A thriller? What category would you place it in?
4. Who was your favorite character? Why?
5. Who was your least favorite character? Why?
6. This book takes place over 8 hours. Did the author make you believe in the short time frame? How?
7. What did you think of the pacing of the novel? Was it too slow? Too fast? Just right?
8. Jason was described as Cavanaugh's "researcher." What other responsibilities did he seem to undertake while also doing his researcher job? Do you think "researcher" is a necessary job for a hostage negotiating team?
9. When the bank robbers "lost" their car in the initial bank holdup, do you think that was planned or do you think it was just circumstance? Why?
10. Why do you think Theresa gave the car to the bank robbers? What would you have done in the same situation?
11. Would you trade places with a family member in a hostage situation? Why do you think Theresa did it?
12. If you were Rachel, Theresa's daughter, would you be mad at your mother for putting herself in a hostage situation? Why or why not?
13. In real life, do you think the police officers/officials would give bank robbers/hostage takers money in a real hostage situation? Do you think they have negotiated in the same way Chris did?
14. When did you figure out what was happening? How did you know? What tipped you off? Did the plot twist surprise you or did you already suspect what was going on?
15. Was it necessary for the bank robbers to kill Cherise?
16. Why do you think Cavanaugh broke his own hostage negotiating rules about bringing in family members and going personally to see the bank robbers?
17. Do you think Bobby/Lucas planned out what eventually happened to Bobby? Why do you think that?
18. How did you feel about what happened to Paul at the end of the novel? Did you suspect?
19. What do you think about the depiction of Cleveland and its suburbs portrayed in this book? How does it make you feel? How does the depiction of Cleveland differ from last month's book, "Ill Will".
20. Lisa Black has written 7 novels in the Theresa Maclean series and 3 books in another series. Will you read them?

References:

- Lisa Black website - <http://www.lisa-black.com/>
- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/b/lisa-black/>
- GoodReads – <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/3315452-takeover>
- Novelist – <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=c70c3624-9b95-4627-a2ed-7401cc2c88c5%40sessionmgr4010&hid=4109&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#U1=266523&db=neh>

Lisa Black's Books

Theresa MacLean Series

1. Takeover (2008)
2. Evidence of Murder (2009)
3. Trail of Blood (2010)
4. Defensive Wounds (2011)
5. Blunt Impact (2013)
6. The Price of Innocence (2013)
7. Close to the Bone (2014)

Gardiner and Renner

1. That Darkness (2016)
2. Unpunished (2017)
3. Perish (2018)

If you liked Takeover, try...

- The Timer Game – Susan Arnout Smith
- The Face of Deception – Iris Johansen
- The Surgeon – Tess Gerritsen
- Trace Evidence – Elizabeth Becka
- The Fix – David Baldacci