

Face of Deception Discussion Questions

by Iris Johansen

Author Bio: (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/j/iris-johansen/>)

Iris Johansen (born in 1938) began writing after her kids went to high school. She started writing as a strict romance novelist, but has moved toward romantic suspense. She is one of the first writers to take minor characters from one book and develop them into major characters in a different book/series.

Characters:

- **Eve Duncan** – Facial Reconstructionist. Expert in Forensic sculpting and age progression. Eight years ago, her seven year old daughter was kidnapped and killed by a serial killer.
- **Bonnie Duncan** – Eve Duncan's lost daughter. Was 7 yrs. old when she was kidnapped and murdered by Ralph Andrew Fraiser.
- **Sandra Duncan** – Eve Duncan's mother. Former drug addict.
- **Joe Quinn** – Former FBI agent investigating Bonnie Duncan's case. Current Atlanta police detective.
- **Diane Quinn** – Joe Quinn's wife.
- **John Logan** – Computer company owner. Millionaire. Heavily involved in funding Republican politics.
- **Ken Novak** – Logan's attorney.
- **Margaret Wilson.** – Logan's formidable personal assistant.
- **Gil Price** – Logan's driver and bodyguard. Ex-military and ex-secret service.
- **Mark Slater** – Logan's electronics expert.
- **Timwick** – Politician and head of the Secret Service.
- **Albert Fiske** – Killer working for Timwick. Former CIA.
- **Ben Chadbourne** – Current President of the United States.
- **Lisa Chadbourne** – First Lady of the United States.
- **Dora Bentz** – Woman killed by Fiske. Former dentist to the President.
- **James Cadro** – Detwil's half-brother. Man killed by Fiske while camping.
- **Scott Maren** – The president's doctor.
- **Donnelli** – Funeral home and crematorium owner. Involved in illegal activities. Father kept the skull of a cremated victim.

- **Kevin Detwil** – Presidential double.
- **Kissler** – Forensic Anthropologist. Has worked with Eve in the past.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. This book was written in 1998. Did it feel out of date or does it stand the test of time?
3. What did you think of the storyline/plot? How credible is it?
4. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn into the story--or did it take you a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?
5. The story jumps between Eve/Logan/Joe, Timwick/Fisk, and Lisa Chadbourne. Did you like that story structure or did you dislike it? Why?
6. Why do you think Logan started with Forensic Sculpting and then tried DNA? Why not try DNA first?
7. Logan brings Eve into a very dangerous situation without really warning her about the possible consequences. What do you think about that decision? Was it logical? Was it moral/ethical? Would you have done the same?
8. Characterization is often listed as one of Johansen's strengths. How do you feel about how each character was portrayed? Do any characters stick out?
9. How does Bonnie's disappearance and murder affect Eve? How does it affect the plotline of the book?
10. Which character has the purest motivation? The most evil?
11. How are John Logan and Joe Quinn similar? How are they different? Who do you prefer?
12. Even after 8 years, Eve is still holding on to Bonnie. Is this helpful or detrimental to her work? Her emotional well-being? Does this make her fragile?
13. Eve keeps seeing Bonnie. Do you think these are dreams or is she really talking to Bonnie's ghost?
14. Why do Eve and Logan follow Quinn into the woods? Would you have followed him?
15. Do you believe Lisa Chadbourne's story about her husband? Does the initial motivation make any difference in the long run concerning what eventually happened?
16. Consider the ending. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it manipulative? Was it forced? Was it neatly wrapped up--too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?
17. There are currently 19 books in the Eve Duncan series. Will you read any of the other books in this series? Other series by Iris Johansen?

References:

- Fantastic Fiction - <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk//iris-johansen/>
- Goodreads - https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/272264.The_Face_Of_Deception?ac=1
- Iris Johansen's website - <http://www.irisjohansen.com/>
- Murder Among Friends - <https://murderamongfriends.wordpress.com/2013/10/18/october-2013-maf-book-summary-the-face-of-deception-by-iris-johansen/>
- Novelist - <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/novp/detail?sid=1d4d97c4-8dc4-4041-9e57-a111f312fd8e%40sessionmgr4005&UI=UI+036410&hid=4214&vid=3>

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- Deja Dead – Kathy Reichs
- 1st to Die – James Patterson
- Takeover – Lisa Black
- The Surgeon - Tess Gerritsen
- A Perfect Evil – Alex Kava