

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE STRANGER INSIDE

1. Anybody could find themselves in Kimber's situation at the opening of *The Stranger Inside*. What would you do if you were put in Kimber's position?
2. What do you think about Kimber and Diana's friendship? Is their friendship and Kimber's fond attachment to Hadley any less genuine given the underhanded way Kimber first set out to make Diana her friend? What should Diana tell Hadley about Kimber's sudden disappearance from their lives?
3. Revenge is a recurring theme throughout the novel. Are any one character's acts of revenge at all justified?
4. Think about the huge developments in technology that have occurred since the 1990s, when Michelle died. What tools can Kimber use in her search for the truth that Michelle could not? Has modern technology made it impossible to escape our pasts?
5. Kimber is a complex and sometimes unlikable character. How did you feel when you realized Kimber was not an honest person or reliable narrator? Does she deserve the ending she experiences at the conclusion of the book? Would you have ended it differently?
6. *The Stranger Inside* is set in the city of St. Louis, its suburbs, and even in a distant small town. How do the different settings affect the story? Might things have come out differently if it were set in just one of those areas? Or a city not in the Midwest?
7. Do you think Kimber thought of Gabriel as just another boyfriend when she broke up with him before the accident? Why did she turn to him almost immediately when she discovered a stranger occupying her house?

8. How does Kimber change over the course of the novel? Do you think she would ever have changed if Lance Wilson and the others hadn't tried to wreak their revenge?

9. Deception is a key aspect of *The Stranger Inside*. Did Kimber's family's lies help make her into the dishonest person she became? Which other characters are lying to each other? In what ways do the characters lie to themselves? How would the story have changed if either Kimber or Don had chosen to be more honest earlier in the story?

10. What was your opinion of Kimber's father when you learned he had left his family, then returned to St. Louis without offering Kimber any kind of explanation? Did you feel differently about his actions when they were revealed at the end of the book?