

READING GROUP GUIDE

FATAL SHADOWS by Josh Lanyon

1) The “hero” of this series, Adrien English, is a bookseller. How realistic is it to base a mystery series on an amateur sleuth like Adrien? Does it matter to you whether the series premise is realistic or not? What makes a series like this fun to read?

2) Adrien’s mother, Lisa, plays a strong role in this book. What did you think about Lisa? Do you think she truly has Adrien’s welfare at heart?

3) Which events in the story stand out for you as particularly memorable or humorous?

4) Discuss the pace of the book and the style. Did the pace fit this terse, brief novel? Was the language appropriate to the story and genre?

5) The characters in the book love to talk. Was the dialogue realistic? Did each character have a distinct voice?

6) We “meet” the character of Robert through Adrien’s recollections and other character’s comments. Did you form an opinion of the kind of person Robert was? What did you think of him?

7) Josh Lanyon has said that when he first began writing the novel he considered making Adrien the murderer. Do you see that in the initial chapters of the story? What do you think of the idea of Adrien as a murderer?

8) By the end of the book Adrien and Jake Riordan seem to be on the point of becoming romantically involved. Was this development realistic? Do you think Adrien and Jake make a believable romantic and sleuthing partnership? Do you want to see more develop between Adrien and Jake?

9) At what point did you figure out who the villain was? Do you feel the author “played fair” with the reader?

10) Adrien English has a potentially life-threatening health condition. What did you think about this when you began reading? Does it diminish your enjoyment of a story when the main character has a

health problem or an addiction? How did Adrien's attitude about his health affect your reading of the character?