

Reading Group Guide

Weapon of Choice

1. What did you think of the Tampa hospital's medical response when the first patient known to have HIV/AIDS was admitted there? Were they overcautious? Under cautious? Were you surprised as to how much we have learned about HIV/AIDS in the last thirty years?
2. How do you think Laura handled the interaction with Matthew Mercer and his father about his HIV diagnosis and the treatment for his overwhelming infections?
3. Victor Worth wants to save his son, but he also wants retribution. And for that, he chooses the "angel of mercy" approach in the ICU—random killing of innocent people to disguise a target. Do you have any sympathy for him?
4. Once the resistant staph organism rages through the ICU and Laura's daughter is stricken, how do you feel about the way she handles medicine and motherhood in times of crisis?
5. Charles Scarlett, participant in a White Supremacy terrorist cell: Do you think that there are cells of bigotry and hatred throughout the United States? Are they in certain pockets? Are they diminishing or getting stronger?
6. What did you learn about antibiotic resistance, bioweapons, and containment? Do you think either of the two scenarios—a clandestine lab in a scientist's home or a scientist removing a culture from a high security lab—could be feasible today?
7. Were you surprised by how Stacy Jones foiled Charles' bio attack?
8. Do you think that Laura and Tim will take their relationship to the next level?