By The Time You Read This
By Giles Blunt

A psychological thriller in which a string of suicides could be the work of a serial killer. Photographer Catherine Cardinal's fatal fall from a high building is ruled an act of suicide. She has a history of depression, a note is found and her psychiatrist is not surprised. Even her husband, John Cardinal, begins to accept this conclusion—until vicious notes appear, taunting him for his loss, and it seems she may have been murdered. Driven by grief and guilt, Cardinal launches his own investigation, helped by his reluctant colleagues. He revisits his past, searching for a suspect among his previous arrests. Someone with a grudge, a person twisted enough to target his innocent wife in revenge. But could he be looking in the wrong place? The mystery deepens when he uncovers a spate of tragic suicides, leading him to investigate a startling new possibility....
Giles Blunt grew up in North Bay, Ontario, a small city similar to the Algonquin Bay of the John Cardinal novels. After studying English literature at the University of Toronto, he moved to New York City, where he lived for the next twenty years, before moving back to Toronto in 2002. The first Cardinal novel, *Forty Words for Sorrow*, won the British Crime Writers Silver Dagger award, and the second, *The Delicate Storm*, won the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis award for best novel. He has been twice longlisted for the Dublin IMPAC award. At present he is working on Book VI in the series, *Until The Night*. 
Specific discussion questions on the book were not available. General questions have been provided to create/aid in discussion.

1. How did you experience the book? It's not always helpful to talk about whether or not you liked the book, but rather how you felt as you were reading it? Were you pulled effortlessly into the book...or did you have difficulty getting into it? Why? Did you find yourself amused, intrigued, enthralled, disturbed, fearful, irritated, angered, or impatient?

2. Are the characters convincing-do they come across as believable human beings with underlying motivations? Are they fully developed as emotionally complex individuals? Or are they one-dimensional, with little emphasis on their inner lives?

3. Which characters do you admire or dislike-and why? What are their primary characteristics; how would you describe them? In what ways do the characters interact with others-a parent with children; a husband with his wife; a friend with friend.

4. What motivates the actions of a given character? To what degree does the character's past play a role in her present actions? Are those actions justified or ethical?

5. Do any characters grow or change over the course of the novel? Does any character come to learn something about himself or view the world differently? If so, what does she learn? Or is the character "static," unchanging from beginning to end?

6. What is the central conflict of the plot? Is the conflict internal to the character (a psychological conflict)? Or is it external, having to do with character vs. character? Character vs. society? Character vs. nature? (Most novels have a combination of both internal and external conflict.)
7. Is the novel plot-driven? In other words, does the plot unfold quickly, focusing more on action than on the inner lives of the characters? Which do you prefer?

8. Is the plot well-developed? Is it believable...or is it forced? Is it suspenseful or more contemplative? Does it unfold naturally, or do you feel manipulated along the way by coincidences, odd plot twists, or cliffhangers?

9. Is the ending satisfying? Predictable or not? Does is wrap up the ends neatly? Is it too neat, too pat? Does it leave some issues unresolved, questions unanswered? If you could change the ending, would you...if so, how would you change it?

10. What central ideas might the author be exploring-the novel's themes? Consider ideas about the nature of love, the requirements of goodness, the meaning of justice, the burden of the past...basic human issues that are at stake in the book.