

STELLA BARCELONA

Deceived Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Was the author's portrayal of New Orleans in *Deceived* consistent with your vision of the city? Were any of the settings in New Orleans familiar to you?
2. Are there places in the novel that you would like to visit?
3. *Deceived* blends romance and suspense, with a fictional historical mystery that is solved in the present day. Did one aspect of the story appeal to you more than the others?
4. The story is told from the point of view of three main characters: Brandon Morrissey, Taylor Bartholomew, and the villain. How did the varying points of view affect how the story was told? Do you like when authors use more than one point of view to tell a story?
5. Why do you think the author included Carolyn in the story?
6. Brandon was initially annoyed by Taylor's incessant questions, but it was a quality he grew to love about her. Have you ever disliked something about someone that you grew to love?
7. Why do you think the author chose *Deceived* as the title? Can you name the characters who were deceived?
8. A) What do you think about Brandon telling Taylor: "You don't look brilliant. You're too damn gorgeous and put together, in a stylish way. You look like you care more about the latest fashion than anything serious." Have you ever been told, or have you told, someone something similar?

B) Brandon follows the comment in 8(A) with: "Don't get mad. Use it to your advantage. Look so good that you dazzle them, then kick them in the balls when they're not looking. I don't know how many juries you've been before, but I'd bet money that your track record is going to be a winning one." What do you think about this comment? Do you believe it is a realistic assessment that a seasoned lawyer such as Brandon would make to another lawyer?
9. Have you ever visited a museum that focuses on World War II history? Where was the museum? Did you enjoy it? Have you been to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans? What did you think of it?
10. If you could rewrite the ending of *Deceived*, what would you change?
11. In a movie version, who should play Taylor and Brandon? The villain?
12. What three words would you use to describe *Deceived*?