

# READER'S GUIDE for Book Clubs: SOUTHERN PERIL

## About the Book

Jersey Barnes keeps trying to leave home without a weapon strapped to her body. She'd love to get an eye-stopping tan and maybe take up golf or tennis. She wants to retire. Well, sort of. When her judge friend asks Jersey for a favor, the unconventional security specialist readily agrees. The judge's brother, an introvert from Dallas, Texas, has moved to Jersey's stomping ground because he inherited a restaurant. But Argos isn't just *any* eatery—it's the hippest place in town where Wilmington's elite dine. It's also the site of a mysterious and dangerous secret that could land the judge's brother in jail...or worse, a cemetery.

## Reading Group Guide Questions

(Don't read these until AFTER you've read the book, unless you want some spoilers!)

1. *Southern Peril* is the third Jersey Barnes mystery, and in this book, the author has delved deeper into Jersey's upbringing as well as her conflicted thoughts about being raised without a father. Do you think that knowing more about Jersey's past adds depth to the current story?
2. Do you like the nontraditional relationship between Jersey and her father, Spud? Note that Spud is a retired cop and Jersey was a government field agent. Do you think that their past careers make the interaction between father and daughter believable?
3. In *Southern Peril*, Jersey has begun to realize that there is much more to Spud than a grumbling, trouble-making, poker-playing old man. At what point in the book did Spud begin to help Jersey solve the Argos dilemma? What actions did he take and what conclusions did he reach?
4. All of the Jersey Barnes mysteries combine action, drama, and humor. Were there any scenes in *Southern Peril* that you found particularly funny? In your opinion, does the author effectively mix suspense and humor?

5. At what point did you realize that Morgan, the judge's brother, was hooked on eavesdropping?
6. What are some of the topics of discussion that you've shared with a friend or lover over a dinner table at a restaurant? When dining out at a nice restaurant, do you normally feel as though you have a sense of privacy?
7. Have you ever (intentionally or unintentionally) overheard somebody's conversation in a restaurant or other public place? If it was interesting, did you keep listening?
8. Do you think that black market prescription drugs are as much of a danger to society as other illegal drugs such as cocaine or marijuana? Why or why not?
9. At any point in *Southern Peril*, did you suspect that Jersey and the DEA agent, Brad, might get romantically involved?
10. Do you have any predictions as to Jersey's future with Ox, her business partner and best friend?

## **Fun Facts About the Book**

Did you know...

- Wilmington, NC is more than 250 years old, sits between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean, and is home to a large container shipping facility.
- The University of NC at Wilmington has a Center for Marine Science that ranks among the top in the country.
- Wilmington is home to EUE Screen Gems Studios, a full service motion picture facility.
- While the author uses many actual locations, landmarks and restaurants in the historic port town of Wilmington, Argos is a fictitious eatery. Bradley Creek and its lovely views, however, is real.

## **A sampling of praise for SOUTHERN PERIL**

"Ocean has written another very action-packed comic mystery."

-- BOOKLIST

"...Ocean blends smart whodunit action with the humorous hijinks of Jersey's spunky 80-year-old dad."

-- PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

"In the same way that Trenton, NJ, is very much a presence in Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series, Ocean's Southern setting of Wilmington is almost as colorful a character as her sleuth. Her latest highly entertaining mystery will appeal to fans of Nancy Martin, Carolyn Haines, and Kathryn D. Wall."

-- LIBRARY JOURNAL

## **Author Bio**

T. Lynn Ocean has written freelance for newspapers and magazines since 1995, in addition to being a health and safety director for the American Red Cross and working as a television producer for Time Warner Cable. T. Lynn is a certified firearms safety instructor and outdoor enthusiast. She lives in Little River, South Carolina with her husband and a few furry critters. She loves road trips, research, quirky friends, and great food. *Southern Peril* is her fifth novel.

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