

READING GROUP GUIDE

PURSES AND POISON

By Dorothy Howell

Kensington Publishing

ISBN-10: 0758223765

How far would you go for a really great handbag?

1. In PURSES AND POISON, Haley often finds herself in embarrassing situations. Have you ever had a major embarrassing moment? How did you handle it?
2. In PURSES AND POISON, Haley takes a relationship quiz in an effort to reassure herself that all is well with her sort-of boyfriend Ty Cameron. Have you ever taken a relationship quiz? What were the results? Did it help or hurt your relationship?
3. Haley chooses to keep quiet about substituting for the sick server at the Holt's luncheon to keep from looking bad in front of Ty. Did you ever keep a secret or make a bad choice to impress someone? How did it turn out?
4. Haley ends up with two dates for the Biltmore event. Was she wrong to invite Doug? Should she have believed Ty would show up as promised?
5. PURSES AND POISON deals with themes of sibling rivalry and strained mother-daughter relationships. Have you experienced these things? How did you work through them?
6. In the novel, much is made of the media firestorm surrounding "The Missing Server." Do you think today's media focus is fair and balanced, or have they gone too far?

7. Haley is outraged when Ty expects her to drop everything and fly to Europe with him. Do you agree with Haley that Ty is taking her for granted? Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation?
8. Who, besides Haley, is your favorite character in the book? Why? Who is your least favorite? Why?
9. Rita, the cashiers' supervisor, is Haley's nemesis in the series. Have you ever worked for someone you absolutely couldn't stand? How did it turn out?
10. Throughout the novel, Haley fears that Ty wanted to hook up with his ex-girlfriend. Have you ever worried about your boyfriend's ex? How did it affect your relationship?
11. Haley loves handbags. Do you think the \$2,000 Judith Leiber evening bag she gets was too extravagant? Or did she earn it? What's the most expensive "luxury" you ever bought for yourself?