

READING GROUP GUIDE

SHOULDER BAGS AND SHOOTINGS

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Mystery, romance and shopping – what more could a girl want?

1. Haley must tell her boyfriend Ty he's not making the grade in the bedroom. This is a very delicate subject. Should Haley have told him? Have you ever had to talk with someone about a sensitive subject?
2. Haley is stunned when she learns her former beauty queen mother knows all about her aerospace engineer dad's Top Secret project. She wonders if couples talking – and actually listening – to each other is the secret to a good relationship and a strong marriage. How important do you think this is?
3. On the surface, it appears that Tiffany Markham “broke wild” when she quit her job as an attorney in a well respected law firm in South Carolina and moved to Los Angeles to sell knock-off purses. Have you ever wished you could do something like this? Have you ever actually done it?
4. The Holt's Department Store added a sewing and fabric department, as most all department stores had 20-plus years ago. Why do you think sewing fell out of fashion? Do you think it will return to the forefront of American society and be as popular as today's cooking shows?
5. In the breakroom, Bella, Sandy and Haley aren't impressed with Christy's enthusiasm for her job. In fact, they find it irritating. Did you think Christy was annoying? Did you ever work with someone who was?

6. Haley's mother, a former Miss California and third runner up for the Miss America crown, learns that Haley is supposedly stalking an old boyfriend. She advised Haley to let him go, saying, "Holding on to a man who doesn't want you will lead to nothing but heartache." Does this tell you something about Haley's mom? Do you think she's happy in her life?
7. Haley and her now-official boyfriend Ty seem to have little in common. Haley is tempted to learn about high finance – which she isn't interested in – so they can have something more to talk about. Should Haley do this? How far should you go to make a relationship work?
8. Haley is angry that Luke, an undercover FBI agent, deceived her about his true identity. Yet sharing this information with her would jeopardize his investigation. Should Luke have made an exception for Haley? Should she have been more understanding?
9. Luke surprises Haley with a Sinful handbag. Should she accept it? Will it make everything okay between them?
10. At the end of the book, Ty wants him and Haley to live together. Should she agree? Is it too early in their relationship? Will living together help or hurt them?