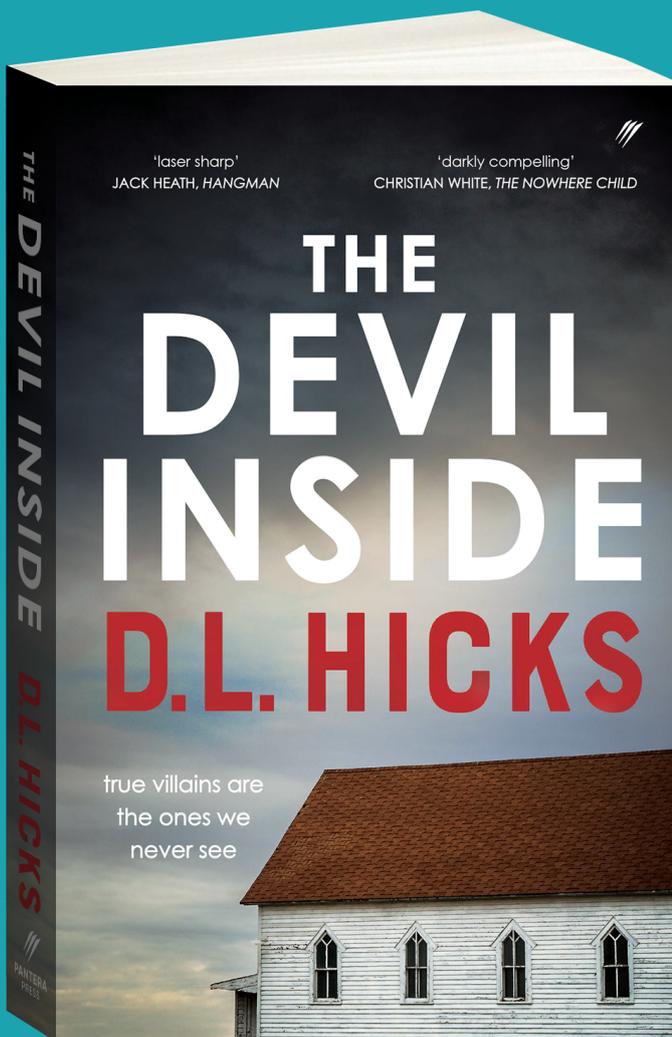




SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

BOOK CLUB NOTES



Praise for *The Devil Inside*:

"A world where evil begets evil, none of the good guys can trust each other and the bad guy has a hell of an axe to grind." Jack Heath, bestselling author of *Hangman*

'Hicks leads the reader on a dark and darkly compelling journey that builds to a thrilling, breath-holding climax.' Christian White, bestselling author of *The Nowhere Child*

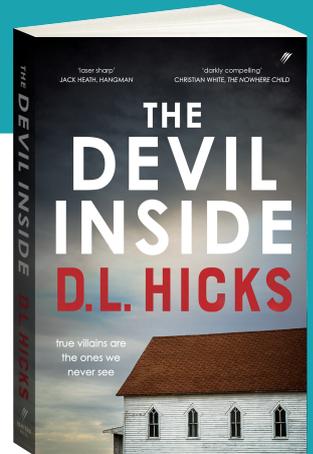
BOOK CLUB NOTES



SPARKING
IMAGINATION,
CONVERSATION
& CHANGE

THE DEVIL INSIDE

by D. L. Hicks



Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Revelation 2:10

In a peaceful coastal town, a young woman is found brutally murdered, a piece of scripture held tightly in her hand. Local detective Charlotte Callaghan is put on the case, and she's glad for the distraction – Gull Bay can be a hard place to keep a secret, and she's holding on to a few.

After Charlotte asks her brother, Father Joseph Callaghan, about the verse, her suspicions fall on his parishioners. Then a second victim is found, along with another biblical message.

A dark betrayal is concealed within the small community. For Charlotte, there's something personal about this case, something that threatens the very core of her beliefs. Can she unravel this mystery before it tears her town apart?

A gripping crime novel about murder, betrayal, and the monsters who hide in plain sight.

About the author

D.L. Hicks is a police officer with the Victorian Police. In his twenty-five years of service he has been on the frontline of everything from drug busts to serious collisions and all manner of violent crime. His debut novel, *The Devil Inside*, examines the line between good and evil and how circumstance can alter a person's life in the blink of an eye. He lives in Geelong with his family.

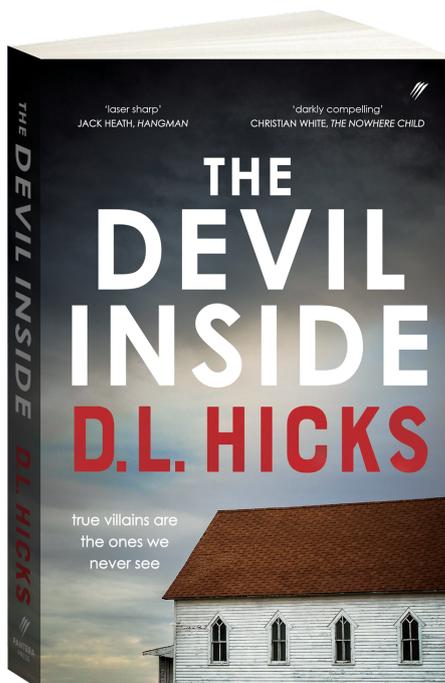


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. At what point in the novel were you able to start piecing together what had happened? Were you able to pick up on the clues, or was it a mystery until the killer was revealed?
2. How did the flashbacks influence the reading experience? What did they add, if anything, to the story?
3. How important did you feel the small-town setting of Gull Bay was to the story?
4. The point of view is shared between several characters. Whose voice did you find most compelling and why?
5. The line between justice and vengeance is inherently blurry. Discuss.
6. Did you ever feel sympathy for the killer? Why or why not?
7. Charlotte Callaghan and Katelyn McBride are two women trying to excel in their careers. Compare their tactics. Is one ultimately more effective than the other?
8. What challenges does Charlotte face as a female in her job? How do you feel about the way the author presented these?
9. Do you think Charlotte was capable of doing her job to the best of her ability? What would you do in her situation?
10. Why does Charlotte keep her illness a secret from her colleagues and loved ones?
11. Do you think Jack's feelings for Charlotte were genuine?
12. When dealing with younger officers, Charlotte notices them behaving unprofessionally and speaking to their superiors without respect. What do you think this says about modern values and older values? Have you ever been in a situation where you've shared Charlotte's observations?

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

13. When Ben's trauma resurfaces, he must find the courage to file a report with the police. How accessible is this system in your opinion?
14. Authority figures abusing positions of trust is a recurring theme in the novel. Was there a particular instance that shocked you more than others?
15. Why do you think Ben and Johnny handle their history differently?
16. What does the jigsaw puzzle on Charlotte's table represent, and what is its significance?
17. What is your interpretation of the final scene? Is Joseph guilty or not?
18. D.L. Hicks has more than twenty-five years of experience as a police officer. Do you think this helped make the novel more realistic?



More by D. L. Hicks
coming in 2021