

Discussion Questions for

The Stable Vices Affair

(Javari Press 2014; ISBN 9781895487053)

1. Veronica Chandler becomes a licensed PI at the age of 18. Do you think that any 18 year old can or should function as a private investigator, regardless of the legality?
2. Should women use violence to protect themselves? Regardless of your answer, under what circumstances might the opposite be true?
3. Janet Chandler takes her very young daughter to a shooting range so that she'll respect firearms. Given the Canadian view of guns, was this a reasonable thing to do?
4. Why are Kali and Veronica such good friends? What does each of them supply to the relationship?
5. How much does Veronica's medical condition really affect her? Is she as different as she thinks she is from a "normal" woman?
6. One of the main themes in *The Stable Vices Affair* is the nature of infidelity. How would you handle infidelity in real life, especially if it had extenuating circumstances?
 - Veronica Chandler → Adam Cullen
 - Keith Bonsell → Parker Barranger
 - Sofia Reinkemeyer → Frank Reinkemeyer
 - Frank Reinkemeyer → Sofia Reinkemeyer
7. Veronica, Jordan, Kali, and George take part in a religious ritual when only one of them (Kali) was actually Wiccan. Has anything similar ever happened to you? Did you feel a spiritual connection, even though it was not your religious tradition (if any)?
8. It is pretty obvious from her description that Veronica grew up as a "free-range child" with much less parental supervision than some people believe is necessary. How did this freedom during her childhood help or hinder her?
9. Olive Chicken, Puspa, and various other Calgary locations in the book are real. Maison Chandler and Veronica's address are not. Does the mixture of fact and fiction in the book bother you, or do you enjoy the sense of realism? Do you think that the author adequately separates the facts from the fiction?
10. What do you think of the BSI? Is an informal network of forensic specialists a good idea to relieve the backlog on official labs, or does it raise concerns about privacy and possible breaches of justice?
11. At various times, Beleth presents as one person, two people, a con artist, a real demon, and possibly something else entirely. Who do you think Beleth is, and what is her game?