

*Collusion* by Stuart Neville

Reading Group Guide

- 1) Policing in Northern Ireland is uniquely political given the country's troubled history and the role of the police force within that. How, if at all, does the book address this?
- 2) How important is the geographical setting of the novel? Does it help differentiate *Collusion* from other crime novels? If so, how?
- 3) Detective Inspector Jack Lennon is a severely flawed character with many unsympathetic traits. But does he gain the reader's sympathy over the course of the story? Is it surprising that Gerry Fegan, a mass murderer, can perhaps seem more sympathetic on the page than a policeman with commitment issues?
- 4) A significant portion of the book is told from the primary villain's point of view. Is it fun to see the world through such a despicable person's eyes? Or would you rather stay with the good guys?
- 5) As was the case with the author's first novel, *The Ghosts of Belfast*, the line between good guy and bad guy in *Collusion* is often blurred. Is this kind of ambiguity in a novel a good thing, or should the line between good and evil be more clearly defined?
- 6) *Collusion* carries forward some of the supernatural elements from *The Ghosts of Belfast*. Do you feel they add to the story, or do you think crime fiction should stay away from such themes?