



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Book Title: *Those Who Wish Me Dead*

Author: Michael Koryta

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Book Website: <http://www.michaelkoryta.com/>

Author Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michaelkoryta?fref=ts>

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. A good story has many twists and turns and unexpected happenings. What surprised you in the story line?
3. Why do you think Koryta wrote this book?
4. What were the themes of this book?
5. Have you known people who went to survival training? What do you think of this sort of training? Would you want to attend some day?
6. This book transports us into a realm of crime and darkness that we don't often see. To what extent is this a realistic book? Have you known personally of this type of story?
7. Have you read other books by Koryta? If so, how did this compare to the others?
8. Read over the MAMs comments on the book. Which of them do you most agree with and why?
9. In what ways, if any, will this book change your life or perspective?
10. With which of the MAMs do you most agree about this book?

Other Links...

Watch Michael Koryta discussing *Those Who Wish Me Dead* at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH1_tvqe41o.



NANCY: I don't read mysteries much, so this was a good change of pace for me. The MAM who chose this book for our book club said that others liked it in another book club and couldn't put it down. Definitely a page turner for me, too. Koryta did considerable research and wrote knowledgeably about survival training and forest fires. He developed the characters very well and I felt great empathy for the protagonists. As a pacifist, I appreciated Ethan's approach to working in the military, and making a life afterwards; helping people survive and avoid killers. Although Ethan's Dad never appreciated his, I think Koryta wanted us all to cheer his choice.



SALLIE: Well, of course I was focused on Jace, the poor kid. From the beginning I thought he was supposed to die. It said "on the last day of his life." That seemed cold. But the reality might have been worse. And yet, Koryta wrote a good story of a young person coming of age, growing up, facing his fears. I loved that he first had Connor as his persona, with the scared Jace inside, and later became himself again with the fearless Connor inside. I cheered for him all the way. A good story for young people to face their fears and push through the struggle.



ABIGAIL: Hmm... well I don't like this crime stuff. Not my cup of tea. I read it for the good of the MAMs, but I think this type of book perpetuates violence. I did like Ethan's approach to the military, though, to teach people to survive, rather than to kill. At this point in human history, I think we all need to focus on what it's going to take for the human species to survive climate change. So survival can be a good theme, but I think we need to get serious NOW about slowing down carbon emissions before it's too late. Always a chance to preach! Join Citizen's Climate Lobby and help us!



MOLLY: I liked that he didn't make the African-Americans the criminals. Seemed it was all about white people, and I appreciate that they were the bad guys for a change. Like Abigail, I don't like the violent stuff, but it was a good story and it kept me reading. I stayed up past my bedtime to finish it, so you know it was a good read! I also liked the paranormal activity with the female firefighter connecting with a lost boyfriend and the sacrificial nature of their love for each other and others. Read it and you'll understand!



PRISCILLA: I liked this one. The good guys vs. the bad guys. Kept me reading late one night, rooting for Jace and Ethan and crying for the wife left behind. But even she surprised me as the story unfolded. We lost some good people, but for the most part the good guys win and for that I'm grateful. That's the way it should be. Amen and amen!



KATHARINE: I read this book and thought, "What a lot of research!" He had to study survival training, mountain climbing, firearms, hiking, forest fires, methods to fight forest fires, the Montana wilderness, first aid. When you read a book like this, you enjoy the story, but you also learn a lot in the process.



JANE: Confession time, ladies. I'm not a good reader. I prefer books on tape. Since I could get this one at the library, I listened to it in my woodworking shop late at night. A little creepy, some of those scenes, especially when you're in the dark, alone. But loved that the Lady Knight came to the rescue on a horse. But I better shut up and not spoil it for the readers!