

Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, Tori Templeton wrestles with the idea of a good God in a world plagued with sickness, hurt, and unrest. What would you say to her in those moments? Have you every had similar thoughts? What truth does John 16:33 tell us?
2. Cole Jeffers struggles to get past a defining moment that led to the end of his career as a US Marshal. What prevents him from moving on What convinces him to take the next step? Do you think he's able to set the incident aside entirely, or will it continue to dog him?
3. Max Dublin steps on plenty of toes in what could be his last case. How well is his behavior handled by the FBI? By Tori? By Cole? If you encountered someone equally as curmudgeonly without knowing what factors might be contributing to their attitude, would you be more inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt? Why or why not?
4. Tori and her friend Sally are seemingly blindsided when details about Nathan Moore's secret life are uncovered. While Tori is confused by the disparate qualities in the man, Sally continues to champion her husband, though she denounces Nathan's inappropriate actions. Is Sally simply being naive? Or is it right for her to stand by her man?
5. Albert Weiman is consumed with seeing his son, Erik, get the justice he deserves—and the medical help he needs. What measuring stick do you use to determine how far you should push to get your way? What happens when you push too far?
6. When Cole and Tori get into a theological discussion, Tori tells him she needs evidence in order to believe, even when it comes to proving her friend's innocence. Do you think Tori really needs tangible proof for the case, or does she, deep down, believe Sally? What would you say to someone who asks for physical evidence of God's existence?
7. Officer Richards tells Tori: "Things are rarely only as they seem. Your case, the people in your life, even your thoughts and fears have a purpose." In what ways does Tori see this play out? Describe a time when this has been true for you.
8. Several characters in *Deep Extraction* have moments of great anger: Tori with Max; Lance Moore for his father's indiscretions; Sally with Tori and Cole for not keeping her informed about the investigation; Cole at the Hermanos de Pistoleros. How well do they each handle their emotions? What happens when you get angry? How do you respond to someone who is angry with you?
9. Tori worries quite a bit about cancer and lacks the other big C: courage. What advice does she get from the people in her life? How does she find peace? When you're afraid of something, what do you do?
10. Were you surprised by the twists and turns in the story? Which one shocked you the most?