

“A high-stakes legal thriller packed with
intense courtroom drama.”

—ALAFAIR BURKE

LARA BAZELON

A



GOOD

MOTHER

A NOVEL

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION



- 1) Abby tells her boyfriend, Nic, that she needs to be the one to defend Luz because as a new mother herself she can relate to what Luz was feeling and thinking in a way that no one else could. Do you think she was right?
- 2) The book refers to a past case Abby had with a client named Rayshon. Early on, Abby's friend Jonathan tells her to get over it: "that part of your life is over." How much do you think Abby's experience with Rayshon's case influences her decisions?
- 3) Early on in the book, Abby gets into an argument with Will. When Will criticizes Abby's decision to come back early from maternity leave to try Luz's case, Abby responds, "How dare you judge me?" Did you find yourself judging Abby for that decision? How does that decision fit or not fit with your own life experiences?
- 4) Jorge Estrada decides not to cooperate with the judge's order and faces a severe consequence. In his situation, what would you have done?
- 5) In the middle of trial, Abby realizes there are a lot of important facts that Luz has not told her. But when Luz offers to tell her what she wants to know, Abby responds "just answer the questions I ask you." Was that a mistake—would Abby have been better off knowing?
- 6) When the prosecutor asks Luz a question on cross examination about Travis attempting to rape Luz, Luz answers "I never said it was rape." Do you agree with that statement and if not, why do you think Luz was so adamant?
- 7) Nic makes a dramatic decision at the end. Do you agree with his reasoning and with what he did?
- 8) How do you define a good mother? Do you think Abby or Luz fits your description? If not, why not?