



## BOOTLEGGERS DAUGHTER: Book Club Discussion Guide

*Irrelevant factoid: To date, this is the only book to win an Edgar, an Agatha, an Anthony, and a Macavity in the same year.*

**Margaret Maron on the writing of *Bootlegger's Daughter*:** I had written a series of mysteries based on my NYC experiences and I wanted to set a separate series in my native state. To do that, I had to try to make the new Deborah Knott character as different as I could from Lt. Sigrid Harald, NYPD. Reporters and attorneys had been done to death, but no one had written about a woman judge before. Because Sigrid was a loner with only a mother, a grandmother, and a housemate, I gave Deborah a large rowdy family. Sigrid

liked art and music and was fairly intellectual. Deborah likes Willie and Waylon and the boys. Sigrid is uncomfortable and awkward with interpersonal relationships, Deborah is comfortable in her skin and has never seen a tight pair of male jeans she didn't like, etc.

Another reason to make her a district court judge was so that I could send her across the state and look at various aspects of North Carolina and current issues facing it.

### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. What roles do Deborah's internal Preacher and Pragmatist play? Why does she think of them as male?
2. How does the Knott clan contrast with the Vickersys?
3. Running for a local office means going out and meeting voters one on one. How would you handle being questioned about your religion or your views on alcohol?
4. Since the book also focuses on grassroots politics, in light of the last election, just how much attention did you give to any of the judicial candidates? Especially now that more and more judges run as "non-partisan" candidates. Did you check to see what their previous party affiliations were?
5. What role does religion play in this book?
6. What are the family values?
7. There seem to be many secrets in this story, especially about sexual/romantic relationships. Why is that?
8. Do you think this book accurately reflects Southern culture?

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