



### *The Crushing Depths Discussion Questions*

Others described Mason's determination to rescue others at great risk to himself "crazy" or "reckless." In an emergency situation, what do you think the balance between courage and caution is? Do you think Mason ever went too far to one side? If so, when?

Steve Irwin and his passion for wildlife conservation inspired Rissi as a girl. Is there a figure in media who you looked up to in childhood? Did it have any impact on your life now?

Early on, did you sympathize more with the oil rig team or the environmentalists? Did that change as the story went on?

To Mason, Rissi's scars were nothing to be ashamed of, but rather showed her courage. How would the story be different if both he and Rissi didn't have the scars—physical, mental, emotional—that they did?

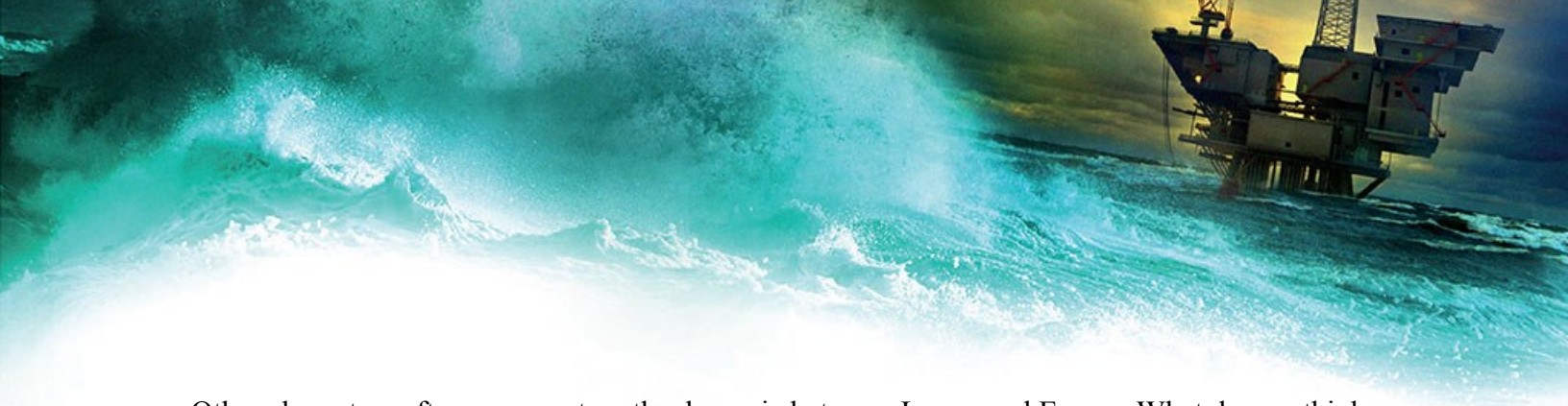
Rissi shares her love of sand-surfing with Mason, one of the lighter moments in the book. Did you enjoy the scenes watching their relationship develop, or were you more interested in the suspense plotline?

Rissi describes the tight-knit investigative team as a "family." How do they function that way? Are they similar to any other families, literal or figurative, you'd read in other books? If so, what makes that dynamic interesting to read about?

At one point, Noah says, "It's easy to regret the past or choices we've made. But living in the past only gives people who've hurt you more power over you. It's best to forget them and move forward, never looking back." Do you agree with this advice? How does that struggle play out for Brooke? Rissi? Mason?

Caleb has an instinctive distrust for ex-criminal Rick Carson even after hearing that he'd found Jesus and turned his life around. Do you think that was a fair assumption? What would you have done in his place?

Several times, Rissi and Emmy were able to handle an interrogation in a way that made the suspects let down their guard. What other unique strengths do you think the women of this Coast Guard investigation team have?



Other characters often comment on the dynamic between Logan and Emmy. What do you think makes their relationship interesting?

Rissi and Mason's official relationship moves fairly quickly, although they've known each other for years. Do you tend to prefer romances where the couple has a history, or do you enjoy ones where they meet during the book?

The tangled relationships of the evil characters untangle at the end of the book. What do you think made so many fall for Chase, Rick, and Gwyneth's schemes and manipulations? Which of them did you find the most villainous?

Which character are you most interested in learning more about in the next book in the series?