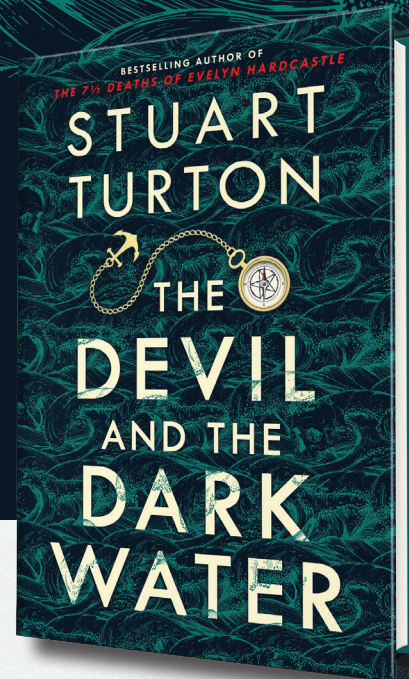




THE DEVIL AND THE DARK WATER

BY STUART TURTON

READING GROUP GUIDE



1. Governor General Jan Haan refuses to heed the leper's warning, and later, he refuses to return to Batavia. Do you think his actions are the result of disbelief or pride?
2. Most of the characterization of Samuel Pippis comes from Arent's memories and opinions of him. How would the story be different if Sammy's perspective was in play more often? Do you think your opinion of him would change?
3. Who has power throughout the book? Does all power look the same?
4. What is the source of Arent's loyalty to Sammy? Is it solely because of the work they've done together? What else might be at play?
5. Sammy's advice is to "hold on to what you know until you know what it means." How does this shape Arent's investigation? Could it have benefited him to be more candid, or would that have increased the danger?
6. How do superstition and fear shape the action of the story? Does a superstition have power even if it isn't "true"?
7. What did you think of Captain Crauwels's change of allegiance? What was his real motivation?
8. If you were in Sara's position at the end of the book, what would you decide?