

BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jarsdel isn't very popular with his coworkers in Hollywood.
 Do you think this comes from jealousy or something else?
 Why?
- 2. One of the reasons Jarsdel tries to classify the killer is to "demystify" him and make him less frightening. Can you think of anything you were afraid of until you learned more about it?
- 3. Early in the book, reporters call for the Eastside Creeper to be "deleted," saying, "We don't need to understand it, and we don't need to reason with it. We just need to get rid of it." Should we classify killers as "inhuman" and refuse to understand their motives? What problems could this type of thinking cause?
- 4. Jarsdel is asked what one thing he would change to improve the world. How would you answer that question?
- 5. Did you agree with Jarsdel's decision to avoid filing a report on the car door incident?
- 6. Varma says that both ugliness and beauty are contagious. How is this demonstrated throughout the book? Can you think of any examples from your own life?
- 7. Father Ruben Duong protests Varma's crime deterrent measures, such as PuraLux and the ReliaBench, saying, "Treat a man like a criminal and he behaves as criminals do." Do you think Varma's measures would make you feel like a criminal? Would that change your behavior?
- 8. Jarsdel barely gets to work with Oscar Morales in this book. Do you think his process suffers? How?
- 9. Jarsdel seriously questions his own motivations for leaving academia. Do you think he was originally looking for an ego boost? Did you think he might leave the police force?
- 10. What do you make of Ed Sponholz? How does he compare to the Creeper?



