

Book Club Questions for *Just the Truth*

A novel by Gen LaGreca

These questions address issues that unfold in the story and are intended to be read after you finish the novel.

A political thriller set in Washington, DC, in the near future, *Just the Truth* portrays the threats to a free press in the era of rising, unchecked government and the courage of one journalist who risks her career, her reputation—and ultimately her life—to investigate suspicious activity that might manipulate the results of a presidential election. This newswoman, Laura Taninger, battles a powerful bureaucracy to keep journalism, a free press—and truth—alive.

1. Do you like the main character, Laura Taninger? What are the qualities she has that you admire?
2. How does the government try to stifle Laura's investigation of the new voting system that will be used in the upcoming presidential election in which President Ken Martin hopes to win a second term?
3. Laura Taninger and her friend Sean Browne are news anchors on competing networks, but they have two different approaches to journalism. What are they?
4. What motivates Clark, Irene, and Billie Taninger to oppose Laura's investigation?
5. Faced with the intense pressure from the Martin administration and from family members who are her business partners, should Laura give up her investigation?
6. Describe the characters of President Ken Martin and his aides Darcy Egan and Zack Walker. What is their end and what are the means they take to achieve it? Does the end justify the means, as they believe it does?
7. Describe Reed Miller's character. What motivates him? What risks does he take?
8. How can economic regulations lead to the business community's being unable to criticize the government?
9. What are the threats to Kate Taninger's freedom of expression on her university campus?
10. How is investigative journalism and all of our foundational freedoms threatened when government grows too powerful and controlling?

Prepared by the author:

Gen LaGreca

genlagreca@hotmail.com