

Book Club Discussion Guide for *Doubtful Relations*

📖 The author implies that we can't really know people, even our closest relatives, because we all keep secrets. To what extent do you agree?

📖 Families with dark secrets walk a fine line between protecting the family and protecting society. What decisions made by characters in *Doubtful Relations* do you think were on the wrong side of that judgement line and why?

📖 The author portrays a U.S. society in which no electronic communication is secure from prying eyes. Do you agree? Has fear of hacking changed your use of electronic communication?

📖 Paddy shares main-character duties with Seamus in *Doubtful Relations*. Does this work when the book claims to be a "Seamus McCree novel"?

📖 Mysteries are usually "whodunits" with a body or major crime occurring early in the book. This story is more a "who-done-what," with it initially unclear if *any* crime has been committed. Does that matter? What subspecies of crime novel would you use to best describe *Doubtful Relations* to someone who has not read the book?

📖 The author makes substantial use of real locations. Does that enhance or detract from your reading enjoyment? Why?

📖 Several characters in *Doubtful Relations* change significantly by the end of the story. Were any of these changes surprising? If so, why?

📖 In what ways did *Doubtful Relations* reveal the author's worldview?

📖 What theme(s) did the author emphasize?

📖 What's your prediction for Seamus's relationship with Abigail?