

Book Club questions for *Isabella's Painting*.

1. How did you find the *Isabella's Painting* experience? Did the book engage you immediately, or did it take a while to "get into it?"
2. Discuss the main characters, Karina, Mike, Patrick, Martin. Deception Lies Beneath the Painting is the tagline for the novel. In *Isabella's Painting* the main characters all lie to each other – Martin, Karina, Patrick. Discuss the motivations for all the lies. Do you think anyone had a good reason for lying? Would you lie to save someone you loved?
3. Discuss the dynamics between characters? Why do you think the characters do what they do? Do you feel their actions were justified? Did any of the characters remind you of people you know? Which character did you like the most? Least?
5. Do you consider *Isabella's Painting* a plot-driven or character-driven story? What part(s) of the plot surprised you? Provided suspense? Were there parts that you felt were predictable?
7. The author wrote the story through the eyes of Karina but changed to third person with Martin. Why do you think the author chose to do this? Did you find the switch jarring? In general, do you prefer stories written in first person or third person?
8. Before reading this book were you aware of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum heist? To what level—avidly following or read about it once or twice? Were you aware the paintings had never been found?
9. Was there a snippet of dialog that you found funny or poignant or that captures a particular character's essence?
10. We are living in a world where we are constantly being tracked by social media, online purchases, through personal voice assistance like SIRI, and GPS. What do you think of tracking apps like the one Patrick used on Karina? Do you have one on your child's phone? On your own? Would you be offended if your significant other put one on your phone? Without your permission?
11. If you could ask the author a question about the characters, plot, theme, etc., what would it be? Have you read any other books by Ellen Butler? If so, how does *Isabella's Painting* compare? If not, does this book spark your interest in reading others?