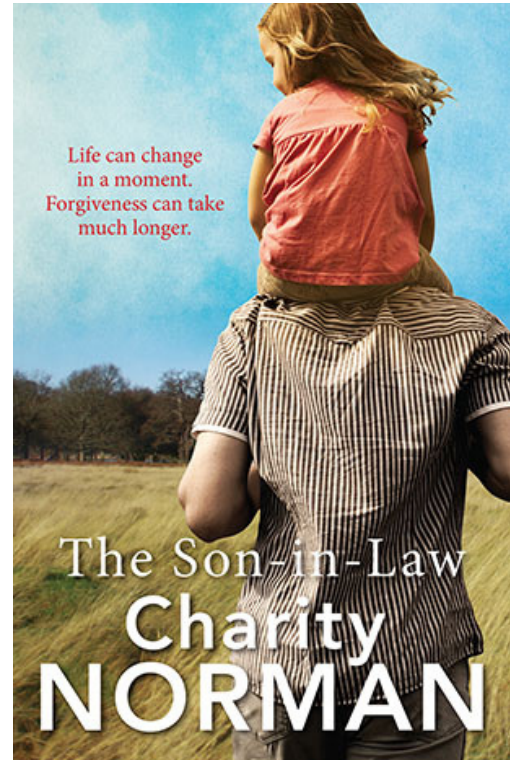


Reading Notes

The Son-in-Law - Charity Norman

1. How did you feel about Joseph when he was first introduced? Did you immediately see him as a murderer, or were you prepared to hear his side of the story?
2. The novel begins with Scarlet's emergency call on the night Zoe dies. How does hearing the event through a child's voice affect our response?
3. As we learn more about Zoe and Joseph's marriage, our understanding of what happened becomes more complicated. Does understanding why Joseph acted as he did make you more sympathetic towards him? Where should we draw the line between *explaining* an action and *excusing* it?
4. Is Hannah's determination to protect her grandchildren primarily about their welfare, or is it also driven by her own grief and anger?
5. If you were the person responsible for deciding whether Joseph should have contact with his children, what evidence would you want before making that decision? Would you prioritise the children's wishes, their safety, Joseph's rehabilitation, or their long-term relationship with their father?
6. Joseph has served his prison sentence. What does society owe someone who has served their punishment? Does completing a sentence mean that a person should be allowed to rebuild their previous life, or are some consequences permanent?
7. Is forgiveness something Joseph can earn, or is it ultimately something his family chooses to give?
8. Is Joseph seeking forgiveness, redemption, or simply the chance to be a father again? What would Joseph need to do before you would consider him redeemed?



Thank you for reading *The Son-in-Law*! I would love to connect and hear your thoughts. Find me on social media, or subscribe to my newsletter.