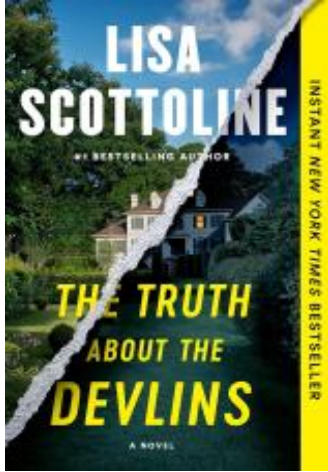


# The Truth About the Devlins

by Lisa Scottoline

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## About the Book

**Lisa Scottoline, the #1 bestselling author of WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BENNETTS, presents another pulse-pounding domestic thriller about family, justice and the lies that tear us apart.**

TJ Devlin is the charming disappointment in the prominent Devlin family, all of whom are lawyers at their highly successful firm --- except him. After a stint in prison and rehab for alcoholism, TJ can't get hired anywhere except at the firm, in a make-work job with the title of investigator.

But one night, TJ's world turns upside down after his older brother, John, confesses that he murdered one of their clients, an accountant he'd confronted with proof of embezzlement. It seems impossible coming from John, the firstborn son and Most Valuable Devlin.

TJ plunges into the investigation, seizing the chance to prove his worth and save his brother. But in no time, TJ and John find themselves entangled in a lethal web of deception and murder. TJ will fight to save his family, but what he learns might break them first.

## Discussion Guide

1. TJ is considered the black sheep of the Devlin family. Did you think his status changed over the course of the novel? In which instances do we see TJ 'save' his family, and which moments of 'saving' is he credited for?
2. TJ demonstrates great empathy in his role as an investigator. Where do you think this ability stems from?

3. For the sake of his family, TJ is forced to keep some secrets, putting himself at greater punitive risk than his "perfect" siblings. Why does TJ choose to take this risk? Why do you think John specifically chose to confide in TJ?
4. Both John and Gabby, for different reasons, ask TJ for his help. To what extent does TJ have a reciprocal relationship with his siblings? How does birth order play a part in the respective familial expectations placed on them?
5. TJ is so embroiled in the investigations for his siblings that he can barely keep himself afloat. With an eye toward achieving full recovery, did you agree with the choices TJ made during the novel?
6. When TJ's mother accuses him of lying, she warns him to stay out of trouble "because [she's] tired of being afraid for [him]." Did you think this was a fair statement? To what extent is addiction criminalized when it comes to accusations against TJ?
7. At the end of the day, the Devlins are both a family and business. How does this duality complicate TJ's role as an outsider? How does it inform the lengths he goes to to protect his family members? Discuss whether it's best to keep family and business separate.
8. Be it by the work of TJ's father or brother, TJ manages to keep his name out of Rigel's accident. To what extent are John or Paul's efforts for TJ self-serving? Do the Devlins really look out for one another?
9. TJ is haunted by the fact that nobody truly believes he has changed. Why do others struggle to see his growth, and why does this matter to him? Discuss how he recreates his identity through the course of the novel.
10. Carrie, TJ's ex, and Nancy, John's wife, are two of the Devlins' interpersonal casualties. Discuss their purpose in the novel. How do they compare to Gabby and TJ's mother?
11. Author Lisa Scottoline sheds light on the real-life atrocities of medical experimentation on Black prisoners, through the story of Gabby's case. Discuss how this story thread amplified TJ's journey throughout the novel.
12. In honor of the title, discuss what "truths" the Devlins are forced to reckon with about themselves. Do you think they finally faced them?

## Author Bio

Lisa Scottoline is a #1 bestselling author, the *New York Times* bestselling author and Edgar Award-winning author of 36 novels, including her latest work, *THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEVLINS*.

She also writes a weekly column with her daughter Francesca Serritella for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* titled "Chick Wit," which is a witty and fun take on life from a woman's perspective. After running in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for 15 years, Chick Wit is now available online. These stories, along with many other never-before-published stories, have been collected in a *New York Times* bestselling series of humorous memoirs, including their most recent, *I SEE LIFE THROUGH ROSÉ-COLORED GLASSES*.

Lisa reviews popular fiction and nonfiction, and her reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Lisa has served as president of Mystery Writers of America and has taught a course she developed, "Justice and Fiction," at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, her alma mater. Lisa is a regular and much-sought-after speaker at library and corporate events. Lisa has over 30 million copies of her books in print and is published in over 35 countries. She lives in the Philadelphia area with an array of disobedient pets, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

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## **The Truth About the Devlins**

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