

## **HUSH: A Dezeray Jackson Novel**

### **Book discussion questions**

1. One of the settings for this story is Fremont, NE even though the main character lives in Omaha. How is the setting of the story important? Why do you think the author chose it?
2. The author's previous stories are based on the Seven Deadly Sins. Which sin(s), if any, do you believe the author focused on in this story? Why do you believe that?
3. The author has said that she believes the Seven Deadly Sins are the basis for every crime. Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?
4. Dez hasn't worked on her sister's case for a long time. In fact, she's been avoiding it. Why is she motivated to help Tamara with a cold case that is bound to stir up negative memories for herself? What does this tell you about Dezeray Jackson?
5. Dez is compelled to find her sister's killer and says that she'll "take a few souvenirs" herself. What do you think she should do if she finds him/her? What's motivating her actions? Fear? Anger? Loss? Something else?
6. The main character, Dezeray Jackson, insists that she wants a normal, easy-going relationship with a man. Why do you think she can or can't have one?
7. It's clear that Dez has feelings for all of the men in her life. If you were going to choose Dez's life partner, who would you choose and why? Patrick Murphy, Scott James, or Haithem Nazari?
8. Scott James isn't who he claims to be. How would you handle his betrayal?
9. Which supporting character(s) do you like the most and why?
10. Which supporting character(s) did you like the least and why?
11. What was your favorite/least favorite scene in the book?
12. What is Dez's fatal flaw?
13. Describe the story in one word? Why did you choose that word?
14. This is the first book in a series. How likely are you to read the next one? Why or why not?

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### Book Summary:

### 5-Star Readers' Favorite 2016

Cold cases are cold for a reason. And PI Dezeray Jackson hates working them. She has, ever since the murder of her sister. But when the unsolved case of a 13-year-old girl falls into Dez's lap, she can't walk away.

Criminal justice student, Tamara Steele, asks Dez to check into the case. The only thing Dez knows is that the girl stormed from her house, never seen again, until her friends stumbled over her body. With all the leads dried up, and no witnesses, Dez must find a fresh place to start.

The girl's stepfather seems to be a likely candidate. The two argued the night the girl disappeared, but the police couldn't link him to her death. Each of her friends haven't strayed far from home, so Dez prioritizes interviewing them. When they give different details that don't quite match up with the events surrounding the girl's death, can Dez chalk it up to faded memories of pre-teen adolescence? And what about the sex offender from the initial investigation? Where is he, now?

As details unfold, and secrets unravel, Dez gets closer to discovering the truth. But when she identifies the killer can she prevent another person's death?

If you like a pull-no-punches sleuth and a masterful, captivating plot with lots of twists and turns, then you'll love author Kori D. Miller's compelling book.

Readers who like Janet Evanovich, Marcia Muller, or Sue Grafton will enjoy getting to know this hot new private investigator from the Midwest. She's got a penchant for weapons, good-looking men, and a great game of pool. And only one of these helps her solve cases.

## Official Author Bio:



Beginning in 2007, Kori's creative non-fiction and short stories have been published in Fine Lines Literary Journal. She launched *Back Porch Writer: The show for writers, about writers, and writing* in March 2013 to connect with authors and publishing industry professionals. Her first full-length mystery, *Hush: A Dezeray Jackson Novel*, received a 5-star rating from *Readers' Favorite* in March 2016. She followed with *North Downing*. Then, Kori took a hiatus from creative writing to pursue an educational goal. In 2020, she published *Tempus*, the third book featuring her smart, sassy, PI Dez.

Kori also earned a master's degree (2020) in educational psychology with a specialization in positive psychology. In addition to this, she studies French, neuropsychology, and habit formation. In her free time, she hangs out with her family, substitute teaches, makes amazing refried black bean tacos, and studies Hapkido. After many years owning a tea company, she returned to her roots: training and coaching. She's committed to helping others identify, articulate, and achieve their goals, big and small.

Kori's *Sinfully Scandalous Mysteries* series and *Deadly Sins* series are available through several online retailers including Amazon, Kobo, Scribd, Barnes & Noble, Apple, and Google Play.

You can reach out to her at [AuthorKoriDMiller](https://www.facebook.com/AuthorKoriDMiller) on Facebook and at [sinfullyscandalousmysteries.com](http://sinfullyscandalousmysteries.com)

To date, she's authored several books:

*Tempus*, 2020

*North Downing*, 2016

*Hush*, 2015

*Deadly Sins Complete: A Dezeray Jackson Mini-Series, 2015*

*Deadly Sins II: A Dezeray Jackson Mini-Series, 2015*

*Deadly Sins I: A Dezeray Jackson Mini-Series, 2014*

*Dante, 2014*

*My Life in Black and White: a book of experiences, 2011 and 2014*

### **Unofficial Author Bio:**

Here's the nitty-gritty: I write sinfully scandalous mysteries for adults, and create memorable adventures for young people. If you love Dr. Who, Sherlock, Star Trek, The Sneetches, Marvin the Martian, and Wonder Woman, then we should talk. I also love people-watching, and creating a storyline and dialogue for what I'm seeing. And, I'd be lying if I said that some of those experiences don't end up in my books.