

Thank you for including *Deadly Alliance* in your book club. I hope the book will spark some worthwhile discussion. I've tried to keep out any big plot spoilers, so feel free to read these questions before, during, or after your reading. I'm normally available to skype or answer emailed questions if your book club would like more author interaction.

1. Dealing with loss can be a challenge. Whether it's a disappointment, a missed opportunity for a wedding, a lost limb, or the death of a loved one, grief can be a powerful emotion. How do the various characters in the book deal with loss? You may want to consider the five stages of grief in your discussion: disbelief, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.
2. Consider the lyrics to the following hymn and discuss the importance of friendship, especially as it applies to the relationships between characters in *Deadly Alliance*. "Each life that touches ours for good reflects thine own great mercy, Lord . . . What greater gift dost thou bestow, what greater goodness can we know than Christlike friends, whose gentle ways strengthen our faith, enrich our days."
3. Discuss the relationships between Peter and his teammates: Jamie, Krzysztof, and Moretti. How do they support one another? How do they show their friendship?
4. Discuss the importance of hope and how it motivates the following characters: Peter, Genevieve, Marija, Miloš, and Iuliana.
5. Can we truly love our neighbor when we do not love ourselves?
6. Discuss the courtship between Miloš and Marija, focusing on why Miloš kept asking Marija to marry him, and why she kept saying no. You may want to flip through those scenes and watch how her reasons change as the book progresses.
7. Discuss the link between faith, hope, and love, especially as it applies to Marija and Miloš.
8. As Peter, Jamie, Krzysztof, and Moretti leave for their mission, they are eager to finish as soon as possible and then return. But during the last half of the book, they also feel obligations to the people who have helped them during their stay in Yugoslavia, and a need to rescue stranded OSS agents. Discuss how Peter weighs his desire to return to Genevieve with his desire to help Marija.
9. Iuliana's main goal is to preserve her son's life. Do you fault her for dragging Ivan into her affairs? What is a good balance between being truthful with your children and protecting them from reality?
10. Tomislav says "Forgiveness doesn't come easily in the Balkans." Contrast characters like Tomislav and Marija's uncle Stoyan Brajović with Miloš. Did this book help you better understand some of the recurring obstacles to peace in the Balkan peninsula?
11. At the beginning of the story, Genevieve is dealing with mild post traumatic stress disorder (called combat fatigue during WWII). How does she cope with this? Could she have done better? Genevieve also has a fear of repeating what happened in Marseilles, but other factors force her to face her fears. How does she deal with the possibility of being the sole survivor of her mission and with the possibility of killing someone again?
12. Have you ever had to give up something you want in order to do what you thought was right?
13. Which villain do you dislike the most?
14. What moment in the book stuck with you the longest?
15. For this novel, I wanted the ending to have hope, but I also wanted it to show that war takes a heavy toll on those who are involved in it. How would you have ended the book?