

**Book Club Questions for  
The Connellys of County Down by Tracey Lange**

1. Delve into the childhood tragedy that marked the lives of the Connelly siblings. How did this event shape their sibling dynamics? Were there any unexpected revelations or nuances that stood out to you?
2. Tara holds onto secrets to safeguard her siblings. Do you believe there are scenarios where keeping information hidden from loved ones is justifiable, or do you think that concealed truths will inevitably lead to complications?
3. In the initial stages of the narrative, how did you perceive Geraldine, and how did your perception evolve as the story unfolded? Did your empathy towards her grow as her character developed?
4. How does Tara's interaction with Brian Nolan, the detective who arrested her, complicate the story? What do you think draws Brian to Tara despite their history?
5. The novel starts with Tara Connelly being released from prison after serving time on a drug charge. How does her past affect her relationships with her siblings and the other characters in the story?
6. Discuss the dynamics within the Connelly family. How does the absence of their mother and their brother's accident impact their relationships and individual paths in life?
7. What do you think is preventing Eddie from pursuing the life he desires?
8. Explore the unlikely bond between Tara and Brian. What drew them to each other, and how did their relationship deepen? What were your expectations or hopes regarding the trajectory of their connection?
9. Imagination plays a pivotal role in the story. How does Tara utilize her imagination to her advantage and to aid those around her? How does the author employ the tale of "The Connellys of County Down" to provide deeper insights into the Connelly family's circumstances?
10. Tara's artistic endeavors assist her during her time in prison and once again when she seeks new employment. Do you have a creative hobby, and how does it benefit you?
11. Were you taken aback by the appearance of the Connelly siblings' father? Did his role and interactions with Tara meet your expectations? Would you have responded similarly if you were in Tara's position?
12. If you've read the author's previous work, "We are the Brennans," draw comparisons between these two Irish-American families residing in Westchester, New York. (Did you spot any references to " We are the Brennans " within this book?)

13. The author drops hints early on that Tara is withholding more than just Roland's whereabouts from the police. Were you able to anticipate her secret, or were you surprised when it came to light?
14. Reflect on the character to whom you felt the strongest connection. What drew you to them, and what do you envision for their futures?
15. Imagine casting choices for a film adaptation of "The Connellys of County Down."
16. The author, Tracey Lange, is praised for creating well-formed characters with diverse qualities. Which character's journey resonated with you the most, and why?
17. What do you think about the narration by Barrie Kreinik in the audiobook version of the book? How do you think the narrator's skills contributed to your experience of the story? Would you prefer reading the book or listening to it? Why?
18. Without revealing any spoilers, what are your thoughts on an ending that leaves room for interpretation? Did you find it satisfying, or would you have preferred more closure?