

Catch of a Lifetime ~ Discussion Questions

1. This book follows the season of a fictional college football program. On a scale of I'm only here for the snacks and the funny commercials to pass the face paint, how involved are you as a football fan? Do you have a favorite college mascot or fight song?
2. Regardless of your personal preferences about football, were you surprised at all by the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes in a college program? If you had to choose an area of focus, would it be game preparation like scout film and practices, academic support like study halls and checking grades, physical training like injury rehab and preventive taping, or the logistics like travel arrangements and checking equipment?
3. Which character in the book did you relate to the most? Why? Did you have a favorite scene?
4. Cassie's past hurts caused by one person on a team have shaped her impressions of an entire sport. How many of society's stereotyping and prejudices do you think are rooted in similar pain? Where else do such pre-judging beliefs come from?
5. Cassie is convicted by a verse about man judging the outside of a man while God sees the heart. This is especially true when comparing the outside appearance of characters like clean-cut Derek and the tattooed/dread-locked Marquise. Have your initial impressions of a person been changed once you got to know them better? Did it make you less likely to judge the next time?
6. Reed is living in the shadow of his brothers and feels inferior for pursuing his own dreams instead of following in his father's footsteps. Has it ever cost you something to pursue a dream? If they didn't understand your choice, what did it take to change the minds of others?
7. Cassie's career plans took several detours due to circumstances beyond her control and she's a firm believer in having a Plan B in life. Do you have a contingency plan or always hope for the best? When the worst in life happens, what can you fall back on?
8. Cassie and Reed's relationship runs into a roadblock when relationships between college employees and students are strongly discouraged. Should colleges and businesses have fraternization policies to prevent relationships between superiors and those under them? If there are firm rules, what should the consequences be? Should there be exceptions allowed?
9. While following the directives of the head coach and athletic administration, Cassie and Reed find themselves in an awkward position where keeping their personal relationship private begins to feel like lying. Have you ever wrestled with a similar moral dilemma? How did you handle it?
10. One of the key lessons Cassie has to learn is about forgiveness. In one scene, she recognizes that it's time to face the enemy and not let him win while in another scene, she embraces the idea of moving on after a setback. What lessons can you draw from the game of football to keep you moving forward? How hard is it to let go of a "bad call" or cheap shot?