

# READING GROUP NOTES

COLD TRUTH  
ASHLEY KALAGIAN BLUNT

When you can fake anything, how do you know what's real?

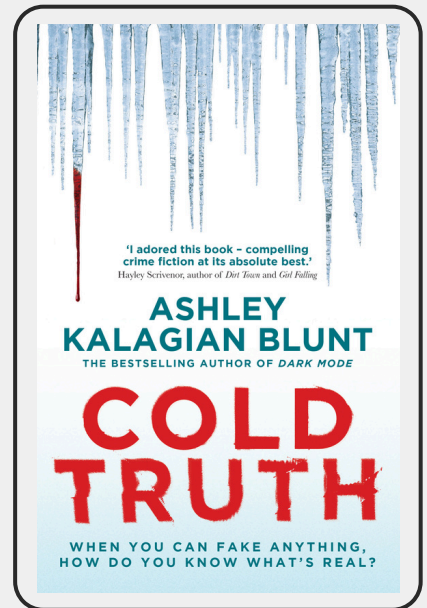
Harlow Close has made a career as an influencer uncovering the secrets of Winnipeg, dubbed 'North America's strangest city'.

When Harlow's father mysteriously disappears amid a brutal cold snap, suspicions of foul play arise and she launches her own search, enlisting her sister Blaise's reluctant help.

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How did your feelings toward Harlow and Blaise change from the opening chapters to the end?

In the final chapters, Harlow notes, 'She'd allowed herself to be manipulated. How much responsibility did she bear for that?' (See page 376.) What do you think?

Did the ending surprise you? How did you feel at the end of the story?

Do you think Hudson will forgive Harlow? Could they end up back together?

The author depicted Winnipeg's extreme weather conditions based on her own years living there. What's the coldest temperature you've experienced and how did it affect you?

When author Hayley Scrivenor ([Dirt Creek](#), [Girl Falling](#)) read [Cold Truth](#) she said, 'I never would have put Winnipeg on my list of potential travel destinations, but after reading this book, I can't wait to go there.' Discuss whether you felt the same way, and why or why not.

## FAMILY. SECRETS. REALITY.

Throughout the story, Harlow mentions several of Winnipeg's official city slogans:

- One Great City
- Heart of the Continent
- Made from What's Real

What is your hometown's slogan? How well do you think it encapsulates the place?

The details Harlow shares about If Day - Winnipeg's Nazi invasion of itself - are true (see page 216-217). How does this history enhance the novel's themes?

Cold Truth is ultimately about how we perceive and understand reality - and each other. How does this theme play out across the novel?

Do you know someone who's been a victim of fraud or a scam?  
How did the experience impact them?

Have you heard of websites like RentAHitman.com? Were you surprised by the information revealed about sites like this? (See pages 294 and 382.)

The type of facial recognition website Harlow uses is real. Were you aware of how easy it is to identify a stranger from a photo?  
How do you feel about the use of this technology in society?