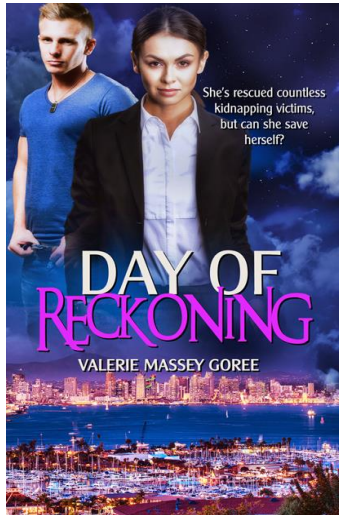


## Discussion Questions

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### **DAY OF RECKONING**

Stolen Lives 2

Author: Valerie Massey Goree

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### **About the Book**

International Retrieval Organization Agent Lela Ortiz is assigned the kidnapping case of businessman, Chuck Davenport. When her boss allows Chuck's brother-in-law to assist, Lela accepts the help with reservations, especially when Jay Vashon, prays to God at the most inopportune times.

Jay would do anything to help bring his brother-in-law home, even work with hesitant Agent Ortiz. As Jay helps Lela decipher the clues sent to Chuck's special-needs son, Jay begins to fall for the feisty IRO agent.

Can Jay break through the barrier Lela has constructed around her heart? Will Lela be able to overcome her distrust of men and God?

And what of Chuck? Can the pair locate him before the ransom deadline?

TITLE: Day of Reckoning

Discussion:

Discussion Questions for Day of Reckoning

1. Lela Ortiz has issues trusting other people, especially men. Why?

(A) Her husband's abuse of her—mentally, emotionally, and finally physically—made her wary of all males.

2. What other ways, negative or positive, did her late husband's treatment affect Lela's present life?

(A) She turned her back on God, however, she learned Tae Kwondo which increased her self confidence, and she helps other women who've been subjected to abuse.

3. Jay is confident in his faith, but his spiritual life evolves throughout the story. How?

(A) Jay has to learn to forgive himself for past actions.

4. Jay's need to protect those he loves sometime backfires. How was this manifested?

(A) He blames himself when Sean is kidnapped, and has difficulty in allowing Lela to lead the investigation.

5. Spousal abuse in an ugly cancer in society and often goes unreported. Although not limited to women, why do you think the abuse goes unreported? Why don't they just run away?

(A) Answers will vary. They are scared of retribution; don't have access to money; worry about the children; have no place to go; have no skills to get a job.

6. Raising a child with special needs can cause tremendous strain on a marriage. Beth has already suffered a nervous breakdown. What support do Chuck and Beth rely on?

(A) Beth relies on Chuck, Jay, her mother, and the live-in teacher. Since Chuck is absent for most of the story, we are not privy to all his support, but we can assume he relies on Jay, the teacher, and his mother-in-law. Although not specifically mentioned, their church family probably offers support, too.

7. What traits does Lela bring to her IRO job that might have been forged in the fire of her relationship with her husband?

(A) She is dedicated, tenacious, self-reliant—which gets her into trouble with her boss—and sometimes has difficulty working with other agents.

8. What skills has Jay demonstrated that would aid his desire to become an IRO agent?

(A) His experience as a U. S. Marine means he can take orders, has been trained in self-defense, can analyze a situation. He is physically and emotionally strong. He wants to help and protect.

9. What helps Lela come to terms with her stalled relationship with Jesus?

(A) Jay's unashamed acknowledgment of his faith spurs her on to reevaluate her past decisions. Jay is nonjudgmental, and only offers advice when asked. His revelation of a dark episode in his past allows Lela to see that he is not perfect, but he remains steadfast.

10. Lela and Jay are not together very long before they realize their mutual attraction. Does this work? Why or why not?

(A) Their relationship develops while they are involved in an intense investigation. Although there is a physical attraction, they don't focus on this. There is too much at stake to be sidetracked.

