Reading Group Guide for

**Blind Trust**: *A Novel*

Port Aster Secrets, #2

by Sandra Orchard

1. After learning that the murder charges against Molly Gilmore have been dropped, Kate once again feels let down by the justice system? How do you respond to injustices in society? Do you wish you could do more? What is one thing you could do this week to take a moral stance?

2. Soon after Kate is caught passing counterfeit money at the grocery store, the gossips are debating her innocence at the local coffee shop. Tom immediately speaks up to set the record straight. Do you tend to listen to gossip, ignore it, discourage it, or counter it with the truth (if you know it)?

3. When accused of counterfeiting, old memories of being marginalized and painted as a crook “like her old man” resurface along with the pain caused by the sneers and taunts. Those sneers ended when her mother moved them hundreds of miles away and changed their names, but she continued to pay a high emotional price for that coping strategy. Have the shortcomings or mistakes of loved ones taken a toll on your emotional wellbeing? How have you compensated? Has it skewed your view of God and his love for you?

4. Although it has been three months since her friend’s death, at times Kate still feels overwhelmed by grief. Tom tells her that grief is her friend and the best thing she can do to get through this is to let it take her wherever it leads. Have you experienced a devastating loss? What advice or actions from others helped you the most?

5. Tom’s dad is spending more time with Lorna and as uncomfortable as it is sometimes to see his dad with someone else, he’s happy to see his widowed father embracing life again. Have you faced having a parent start dating and perhaps marry someone else? Or been a parent in that situation yourself? How did you feel about it? Did you share those feelings or wish that you did? What advice would you give others in such a situation?

6. While strolling Niagara Parks, Kate avoids talking about where, if anywhere, her relationship with Tom is going by babbling on about the flora and fauna. Do you tend to confront uncertainties or uncomfortable topics head on? Or do you prefer to avoid talking about them and let things unfold as they will? Can you think of a time where you wished you’d been more bold, or more timid? Why?

7. Tom is tormented by a past decision to put his friendship ahead of duty, a decision that cost him his friend’s life. He is determined not to make such a fatal mistake again, especially where Kate’s safety is concerned. Do you think he’s right to keep important information from her for her own protection? Why or why not?

8. Handyman, Vic Lawton, takes people’s refusal to hire him as a personal affront when in most instances, the people who decline to use his services simply do so because they have other financial priorities. Are there areas in your life where you might be too sensitive to people’s responses or comments? Why do you think that is?

9. Due to the way people judged her as a child after her father was arrested, Kate is extremely wary of being seen doing anything that others might deem inappropriate. By what standard do you make decisions about acceptable behavior? By what the Bible says? By what your friends or family think? By what feels right to you?

10. Kate attempts to stop Brian Nagy from being able to sell his mother’s property against her wishes by showing that it is a habitat to a rare species that needs protection. To what extent do you think the government or special interest groups should have the authority to restrict what you can or can’t do with your property for the greater good? Why?