

***Crossed: A Luce Hansen Thriller***  
**Meredith Doench**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you know about ex-gay ministries and conversion therapy before reading *Crossed*? How did the novel expand your understanding or alter your views on these LGBTQ issues?
2. Luce Hansen makes her thoughts and feelings on her own involvement with the ex-gay ministry The One True Path clear in throughout novel. What do you think her father's thoughts and feelings are on One True Path? What does he say or what does he do to make these sentiments known?
3. Dr. Eli Weaver offers Luce Hansen a view of an ex-gay survivor. He is established in his career as a Religious Studies professor and has a loving family. How does this character symbolize hope for Luce? Do you think that she will ever accept his invitation to attend the ex-ex-gay support meetings? Why or why not?
4. This novel features many examples of how a person's past is always present. Luce is depicted as a character that is "stuck" because of the events that took place in Willow's Ridge. How does Luce "unstick" herself throughout the novel? Do you think Luce has finally made peace with the events that happened in Willow's Ridge when she was fifteen years old? Why?
5. How does the setting of the novel, particularly the cold wintry weather and the quarry, work as characters? In what ways does the cold mirror the case(s) Luce is working on?
6. Luce has had no contact with her mother since she left for Hollywood when Luce was three. Her father never remarried or had any long-term relationships. What effects, if any, has the lack of female role

models in Luce's past played into her current life situation and her relationship with Rowan?

7. What is the role of Luce's father in her career? Why do you think he only is able to converse with her about crimes and law enforcement issues? Does Luce's reliance on her father's input weaken her as a special agent or make her stronger? Why?
8. Historically, LGBTQ individuals have been the victims of violent attacks and the focus of some serial killers. How does Luce's knowledge of past cases help her to solve the serial murders in Willow's Ridge? Do you think Luce's sexuality helps her to solve the crimes? Why or why not?
9. In what ways do violence and art—two seemingly unrelated things—connect in the novel?
10. What role does water play in the novel? In what ways does water help Luce? Are there instances where it hurts her?