

# TAKING ON LUCINDA

A Kent Stephenson Thriller

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A note of caution to readers: The following questions are worded so there would not be any “spoilers”. However, it is recommended that you read the book prior to reading the questions below.

1. Kent enjoys coon hunting. Is that a conflict for a veterinarian? Can one be a hunter and still be a credible animal advocate?
2. Dan Rodman witnesses and, to a degree, participates in some hideous activities against animals. What toll would that take on a person sworn to protect animals? Can you rationalize him standing by and letting those things occur?
3. Throughout the story Lucinda profoundly changes several characters. Who, how, and when in the story?
4. Kent takes Barry hunting and teaches him to shoot without his mother’s permission. As a parent, how do you feel about that? Do you feel Kent accomplished what he hoped?
5. The story takes place in 1982. How have attitudes about hunting, animal rights, and veganism changed since then?
6. In Chapter 19, when Lester Ross pitches Dietrich Manning, he compares his sport to the way the public views human professional athletes. What is your feeling?
7. Aubrey tells Kent FOAM’s philosophy is that animals should have the same rights as simpleminded people. Do you agree or disagree?
8. What do you think the author meant by the title *Taking on Lucinda*? Several characters “take on” Lucinda, but in different ways. Who and how?
9. Kent and Merrill have a low level riff going on throughout the story. Do you think this is just sibling stuff, or is there more to it? Does it add to the story?
10. The author breaks a novel writing taboo: Do no harm to animals. What do you think of that taboo? Does the author manage to pull it off ?

