

## *Night Vision* Readers' Guide

Joanna Kasimir, an old friend of Jane Lawless, left Minneapolis years ago to make it big in Hollywood and, unlike so many others, she succeeded. Unfortunately, her stardom came at a price. Early in her career, Joanna was involved with a man who quickly went from being an idle interest to a dangerous stalker. Nearly a decade has passed since Joanna sent him to prison, but just as she is about to leave for her hometown to star in her friend Cordelia Thorn's production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," she receives one of his ominous calling cards.

### Starting Points for Discussion

1. How would you describe Jane Lawless? Is she as easy to understand as Cordelia Thorn? Do you think that was Hart's intent?
2. Jane and David used each other as a beard in high school and college. That was over twenty years ago. Do you think this still happens today? Why? Why not?
3. Joanna has a moral dilemma. She can stay in the Twin Cities and do the show at the Allen Grimby repertory theater, fulfill her contract and her promise to Cordelia and be stalked, fearing for her life the entire time. Or she can break the contract so that she can go off and do a movie, break her promise to one of her dearest friends and be more or less safe from her stalker for the time she's out of the country. What would you have done?
4. Was there redemption in this book? For any of the characters?
5. American writer Flannery O'Connor defended her use of violence in fiction by saying that characters in violent situations are forced to discover their most essential selves. If that's so, what do you think Joanna learned?
6. Did you enjoy/dislike the way the past and present were woven together in this book?
7. Joanna's feelings about Gordon seem to be clear-cut throughout the novel until the end. How would you describe Joanna's character? How did she really feel about Gordon?
8. Virtually all film stars have stalkers. It's just a question of how many, how determined, and how disturbed they are. Is the price of fame worth it?
9. What can Cordelia do to get Hattie back? What do you think she will do?
10. Why do you think Joanna was so attracted to people who talked down to her? For example, Faye and Gordon.