**RIBBON OF LIGHT**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Julie Rafferty’s life-long dream is within her grasp. But just as the toy company she founded verges on becoming a multi-million-dollar enterprise, her husband abandons their marriage.

Trevor had no choice but to walk away from Julie. How else could he show his wife that the business was her priority, not him and their three children? His drastic stunt backfires though, jeopardizing the family business and seemingly pushes Julie into the arms of a younger man.

 Just when Julie and Trevor find their way back to each other, a ruthless competitor escalates a bogus lawsuit. Together they plot to reclaim control of the toy company, only to uncover a shattering betrayal that puts them in unimaginable danger.

 Can they overcome their dreadful mistake and reclaim the passion, trust and commitment that once drew them together? Or will the greed of an evil man irreparably destroy everything they hold dear?

1) Julie Rafferty is a successful entrepreneur. But her underlying motivation to owning a business may not be healthy for her, her marriage, her family? Discuss why.

2) From the beginning of their relationship, Julie believed that Trevor would desert her and their children one day. In what ways does her behavior set up a self-fulfilling prophecy? Recall a time when you experienced your own self-fulfilling prophecy, good or bad.

3) Although Trevor shares Julie’s passion for family, his goals and dreams follow a simpler path. Was their romance a mistake, or did he fail his wife in some way? Is he the cause of her insecurity and self-doubt?

4) After Trevor leaves, Julie’s company is sued for patent infringement. Fighting the lawsuit could rob her of her dream and bankrupt the business, leaving her penniless. Even though she’s done nothing wrong, Julie weakens and considers selling. Reflect on a time you acquiesced to someone, even though you knew you were right. What were the ramifications? Did you regret the decision?

5) Once trust is broken, it is hard to regain. Julie’s lack of trust in Trevor clouded her judgement, causing her to make many mistakes, misjudgments and dangerous decisions. How could she have handled things differently? Was she justified in the way she treated Trevor?

6) Julie is panicked after speaking to a newspaper reporter seeking a response to a government investigation into her company. What role did the reporter play in setting up Julie? Some careers have implied trust (doctors, clergy, journalists). How did you feel about the writer’s abuse of public trust?

7) Trevor tells his wife: “There’s all sorts of abandonment, Jules. Money isn’t everything.” What was he alluding to? What theme prevailed as the story unfolded?

8) Did you ever suspect Teresa’s role in Julie and Trevor’s disasters? When were you first tipped you off to her duplicity?