About The Deserter

When Captain Kyle Mercer of the Army’s elite Delta Force disappeared from his post in Afghanistan, a video released by his Taliban captors made international headlines. But circumstances were murky: Did Mercer desert before he was captured? Then a second video sent to Mercer’s Army commanders leaves no doubt: the trained assassin and keeper of classified Army intelligence has willfully disappeared.

When Mercer is spotted a year later in Caracas, Venezuela by an old army buddy, top military brass task Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor of the Criminal Investigation Division to fly to Venezuela and bring Mercer back to America—dead or alive. Brodie knows this is a difficult mission, made more difficult by his new partner’s inexperience and by his suspicion that Maggie Taylor is reporting to the CIA.

Book Club Questions for Discussion

1. Do you think the authors accurately portrayed what is going on in Venezuela?
2. Do you think this book should be a movie?
3. Would you have changed the ending of the novel?
4. If you could ask the authors a question about this story, what would you ask?
5. Do you think Mercer was justified in deserting? Would you have deserted too?
6. How did you feel about the dynamic between Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor?
7. Most of Nelson DeMille’s books are written in first person. How did you feel about the switch to third person narration in The Deserter?
8. Would you like to see this book continued as a series with Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor?

E-mail a photo of your book club, how many members, and your mailing address to fansofdemille@yahoo.com with “Book Club” in the subject line and we will send your book club bookmarks.