



## THE PICTURES

Guy Bolton

Jonathan Craine is a detective at the LAPD and a studio 'fixer', covering up crimes of the studio players to protect the billion-dollar industry that built Los Angeles. When one of the producers of *The Wizard of Oz* is found dead under suspicious circumstances, Craine must make sure the incident passes without scandal. Also, he must protect the deceased's wife Gale Goodwin's reputation. Craine's job becomes increasingly harder because of his building attraction to Gale and a conspiracy involving a Chicago crime syndicate he finds himself in the middle of. Guy Bolton explores the themes of crime, love and justice in this old school murder mystery. The questions below are designed to enhance your discussion of *The Pictures*.

### Questions for Discussion

1. The book is set before the civil rights act of 1964. How is Craine emblematic of the times?
2. Does Craine's resigned attitude towards policing, negatively affect his work ethic? What kind of a police officer do you think he is in comparison to O'Neill?
3. Drawing from this, how does Bolton comment on the justice system of the era? How does it differ to that of today?
4. How has Craine been affected by his wife's murder?
5. Discuss Craine's relationship with Michael.
6. Gale Goodwin, at thirty-three is 'increasingly aware that her time as an actress [is] running short'. How do you think Hollywood's attitude towards female actors has changed over the years?
7. Does the novel's alternating perspectives make for a well-rounded understanding of the case?
8. Discuss the importance of reputation in the novel. What do you think it is worth?
9. What does the novel have to say about power and who has it in Hollywood?