Discussion Questions for
DAMAGES CARRIED DOWN

1. There are two key friendships that run throughout the novel––Maggie and Deb in 1983-84 and Kate and Gertie in 1939. Which is most similar to an important friendship in your own life?

2. Joseph's sections are told as journal entries addressed to his dead brother, Walter. What are other novels you've read with epistolary sections? How do they compare with Joseph's?

3. Was there a character you identified with most? Who? And why?

4. How did your feelings toward Bill Adler change across the course of the novel?

5. Did you have a favorite setting in the novel?

6. The novel follows three timelines; did you find themes that resonated with you in each one?

7. In the prologue, when Maggie dials 911 after a shooting, we learn that she will find herself in Arizona two months from the start of the novel. Did this lure into the story, or would you rather have been completely surprised when later reading the climactic scene?

8. The novel includes many references to literature and music. Was one of your favorites included? Or were you inspired to check out a particular book or song?

9. Family secrets play an important role in *Damages Carried Down*. Have you discovered any surprising secrets in your own family history?

10. Were you satisfied by the conclusion in the book's final chapter, or had you hoped the novel would end differently?

TYPE EIGHTEEN BOOKS