

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Season of the Witch* covers some dark moments in San Francisco history. What factors do you think led to this confluence of largely unprecedented events within a relatively short period of time? Could it happen again?
2. Was it the leadership of then Mayor Dianne Feinstein, the 49ers winning the Super Bowl, or varied factors that led to a more calm and focused city?
3. San Francisco, unlike New York City, never again elected a Republican public official following the times of *Season of the Witch*. Why did this happen, and is this likely to always be the case?
4. *Season of the Witch* opens and closes with stories about the Hallinans, reflecting both the old Irish American power structure within the city, as well as the often fiery nature of SF politics. How has that changed over time?
5. In this year's election, San Francisco voters were faced with some deeply contentious and acrimonious issues, with many of the hot button topics related to growth and construction, economic disparity, short term rentals and more. Were these issues predictable based on past history?
6. While *Season of the Witch* is obviously non-fiction, if such tales were offered as a fiction novel, do you think it would have been believed?

