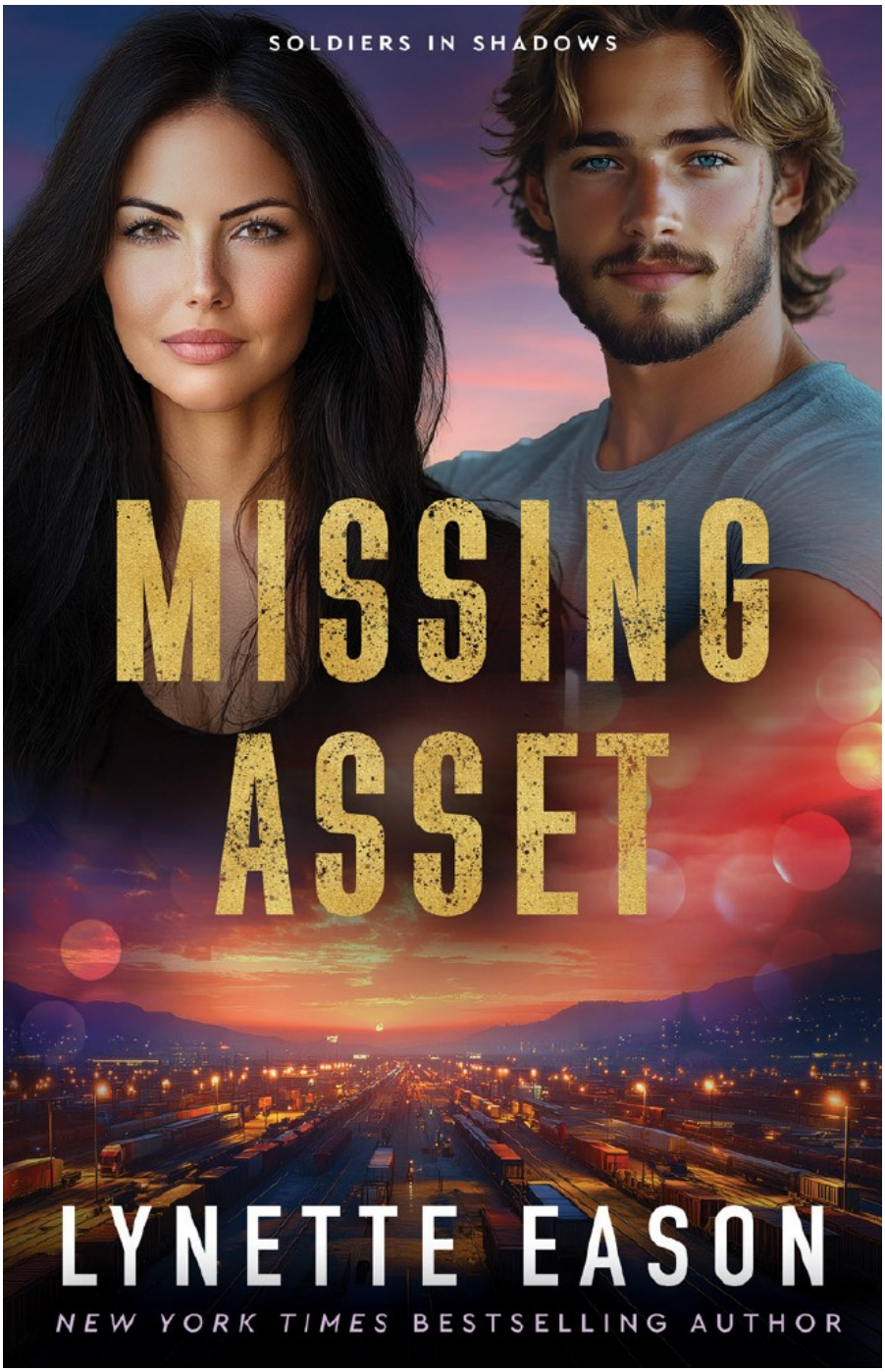
SOLDIERS IN SHADOWS • BOOK TWO



THE OFFICIAL BOOK CLUB KIT

CHARACTERS / INTERVIEWS / RECIPES / DISCUSSION / ACTIVITIES

A READER COMPANION

Welcome to Broken Chains Ranch

SPOILER ALERT — FOR READERS WHO HAVE FINISHED THE NOVEL

Welcome to the official Book Club Kit for Missing Asset, Book 2 in Lynette Eason's Soldiers in Shadows romantic suspense series. Centered around the therapeutic sanctuary of Broken Chains Ranch in Whitestone, Tennessee, this novel weaves pulse-pounding tactical suspense with deep emotional healing, uncovering dark military conspiracies, celebrating the unbreakable bond between handlers and their K-9 partners, and exploring the redemptive power of faith and family.

Whether your book club gathers around a living room table, over a shared meal, or in a virtual meetup, this guide provides everything needed for an immersive discussion: detailed character dossiers, exclusive in-universe character interviews, authentic ranch-inspired recipes, curated discussion prompts, and interactive group activities.

Inside this packet

01 Book overview & setting

02 Character dossiers

03 Fictional character interviews

04 Ranch-inspired recipes

05 Book club discussion questions

06 Group activities & enhancements

The Story & the Sanctuary

The Story at a Glance

When wounded former Army Ranger Brian Miller stumbles onto Broken Chains Ranch bleeding from a gunshot wound and gasping that corrupt Colonel Silas Roarke is alive, former military K-9 handler Felicity Bowman is thrust back into the nightmare she spent four years trying to escape.

To clear the name of her late fiancé, Seth O'Reilly—who was killed in an ambush orchestrated by Roarke and subsequently framed as a traitor—Felicity joins forces with recovering Denver police detective and former Navy SEAL Leo Kavanaugh. Together, they embark on a high-stakes race against a ruthless criminal syndicate to locate Scout, Seth's missing Belgian Malinois, who someone is willing to kill to find. Along the way, both Felicity and Leo must confront their deepest psychological scars, dismantle their defensive emotional walls, and safeguard a secret Felicity has guarded with her life.

The Setting: Broken Chains Ranch (fictional town of Whitestone, Tennessee)

Situated against the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Broken Chains Ranch spans hundreds of acres of rolling pastures, wooded ridges, and peaceful lakes. Founded by former military trauma physician Maya Sullivan Price and her husband Gideon, the ranch serves as a refuge where wounded veterans, former intelligence operatives, and trauma survivors rebuild their lives through equine therapy, vocational training, counseling, and specialized K-9 training.

Felicity Bowman

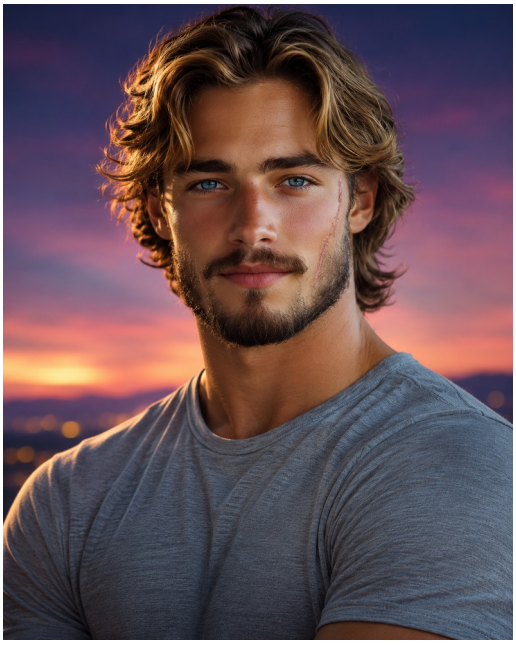


Role: Lead Protagonist; Owner & Head Trainer of the Ranch K-9 Program.

Background: A former U.S. Army K-9 handler. While deployed overseas in Afghanistan under the command of Colonel Silas Roarke, Felicity discovered evidence of a human trafficking operation. Before she could act, her fiancé, Seth O'Reilly, was killed in a catastrophic ambush, and Roarke personally confronted Felicity on her North Carolina doorstep, threatening her family and promising to brand Seth a traitor if she ever spoke out.

Internal Conflict: Intense survivor guilt, grief, and the weight of secrecy. Following Seth's death, Felicity suffered a breakdown and placed her newborn daughter, Rebel, with her sister Gwen and brother-in-law Beau to protect the child from military threats. Her journey involves learning that she is worthy of love, releasing past shame, and fully claiming her identity as a mother.

Leo Kavanaugh



Role: Lead Protagonist; Recovering Detective & Former Navy SEAL.

Background: A medically retired Navy SEAL turned Denver police detective. Leo arrived at Broken Chains Ranch to recover from severe combat trauma and a recent domestic violence hostage crisis where gunfire and a news helicopter triggered a debilitating flashback to a fatal helicopter crash in Kandahar.

Physical & Emotional Scars: Distinctive jagged scars down the left side of his face—running from his temple across his cheekbone and into his dark beard. He carries the lingering emotional sting of his hyper-critical father's voice echoing that he is a "weakling."

Character Arc: Patient, observant, and fiercely protective. Leo discovers that using his tactical and investigative gifts to protect Felicity and Rebel quiets his trauma far more effectively than isolation ever could. He proves to himself—and to Felicity—that broken places are where light enters.

Scout — A Soldier's Loyal Partner



Seth O'Reilly: Felicity's late fiancé and an elite military working dog handler. A man of unyielding integrity, Seth discovered Colonel Roarke's trafficking network and equipped Scout with an encrypted data recorder as an insurance policy. He was deliberately sent into an ambush to silence him.

Scout: Seth's devoted Belgian Malinois partner. Thought to have perished alongside Seth, Scout was secretly rescued by teammate Beckett Taylor and protected by retired Army vet Patricia Voss. Scout embodies steadfast canine loyalty, carrying the key to justice embedded beneath his skin.

Auggie — K-9 in Training



Role: German Shepherd EOD (Explosives Detection) K-9 in Training.

Traits: Sleek black-and-tan coat, highly food-motivated, intuitive, and protective. Though officially preparing for duty with the Nashville Police Department, Auggie acts as Felicity's constant guardian, a source of emotional grounding, and an impromptu search-and-rescue tracker when she is abducted.

Rebel — The Heart of the Story



Role: Felicity and Seth’s Three-and-a-Half-Year-Old Daughter.

Traits: Bouncing dark curls, Seth’s dark eyes, and a laugh bright as wind chimes. Named after Rebel Without a Cause, she carries boundless joy and wide-eyed trust. She famously breaks through Leo’s guarded exterior by examining his facial scars with gentle curiosity and kissing his cheek to make his "owies all better."

MORE CHARACTER DOSSIERS

The People Behind the Ranch

Maya & Gideon Price

Role: Founders and Stewards of Broken Chains Ranch.

Background: Maya is a former military trauma physician who served alongside Felicity; Gideon is a steady, capable veteran. Together, they provide the spiritual, physical, and tactical foundation of the ranch community, defending their residents with fierce loyalty and open arms.

Brian Miller & Colonel Silas Roarke

Colonel Silas Roarke: The corrupt, ambitious S-3 operations officer whose shadow hangs over the novel. Feared for years as a looming threat, it is revealed he was actually killed two years prior.

Brian Miller: Seth's former teammate and the true mastermind. Miller eliminated Roarke to take over the criminal enterprise, staged his own gunshot wound, and resurrected Roarke's "ghost" to manipulate Felicity into retrieving Scout's data chip.

In Their Own Words

An Interview with Felicity Bowman

Interviewer: Felicity, when Brian Miller collapsed at the kennels warning that Colonel Roarke was alive, you were thrown back into your worst nightmare. What kept you from simply packing your bags and running?

Felicity Bowman: "Every instinct I had screamed at me to run, grab Rebel, and hide where no one could ever find us. But the truth was, I'd already been running for four years. Living in fear isn't living—it's just survival. When Brian showed up, and then when someone left Scout's old rubber toy in the kennel, I realized the past wasn't going to stay buried. And honestly, Seth deserved justice. His name deserved to be cleared. And more than anything, I didn't want my daughter growing up in the shadow of a lie. If confronting the darkness was the only way to give Rebel a safe future, I had to stand and fight."

Interviewer: You kept the fact that Rebel was your daughter a secret from almost everyone, including Leo. How heavy was that burden?

Felicity Bowman: "Crushing. After Seth died, I hit rock bottom. I was broken, grieving, and terrified that Roarke would target my baby to keep me quiet. Handing her to my sister Gwen was the hardest decision of my life, even though I knew Gwen and Beau would love her completely. Every time Rebel called me 'Auntie' in public or asked when she could come stay with me, it felt like a knife in my heart. When Leo figured it out, my first reaction was pure terror that he'd look at me with judgment or disgust. But instead, he showed me grace. He didn't see a failed mother; he saw a woman who had sacrificed everything to keep her child breathing."

Interviewer: What role did Auggie and Scout play in helping you navigate this ordeal?

Felicity Bowman: "Working dogs don't know how to lie. When humans are spinning in chaos, trauma, and doubt, a dog anchors you right in the present moment. Auggie was my rock. Burying my fingers in his fur steadied me. And seeing Scout again—realizing that he had survived, that he remembered me, and that he loved Rebel instantly—it felt like Seth was reaching through time to tell us we were going to be okay."

An Interview with Leo Kavanaugh

Interviewer: Leo, when you arrived at Broken Chains Ranch, you had no intention of jumping into an active investigation or getting romantically involved. What changed?

Leo Kavanaugh: "I came to Tennessee to hide out, plain and simple. After the helicopter crash in Kandahar and freezing up during that rooftop standoff in Denver, I felt useless. My father's voice was in my head 24/7, telling me that fear made me a failure. But when Felicity's life was threatened, something clicked. You can't sit around feeling sorry for yourself when someone you care about is in the crosshairs. Protecting Felicity gave my training and my instincts a purpose again. I realized that stepping into danger to defend someone else wasn't running from healing—it was the healing."

Interviewer: Your facial scars are an obvious physical marker of your past combat trauma. How did you react when little Rebel touched them for the first time?

Leo Kavanaugh: "I froze. Adults usually look away, or they stare with pity, or they cross the street. I've had kids cry and run away from me before. When Rebel reached out, I braced myself for the worst. But she just looked at me with those big, dark eyes and asked if I had owies." Clears throat. "Sorry. It still chokes me up to remember. But then she kissed my cheek to make it 'all better.' That three-year-old girl took down walls in five seconds that I'd spent years building up with steel and concrete. Right then, I knew I was done for. I was going to protect that little girl and her mother with everything I had."

Interviewer: You have a well-documented obsession with high-end, fresh-ground coffee. How did that become a running theme at the ranch?

Leo Kavanaugh: (Laughs) "Listen, life is entirely too short to drink bad coffee. In the military and in police work, you survive on burnt, bitter sludge that's been sitting on a burner way too long. Or it's in a pod that sat in a warehouse forever before it ever reached your Keurig. When I went to Broken Chains, bringing my own imported whole beans and grinder was my one non-negotiable luxury. Sharing it with Maya and Felicity was a tactical mistake, though—suddenly half the ranch was knocking on my cabin porch before sunrise with empty mugs!" Smiles. He really doesn't mind.

Flavors of the Ranch

Food is a powerful source of comfort, community, and hospitality throughout Missing Asset. These two recipes reflect key moments of connection in the story.

Recipe 1: Maya's Fresh Blueberry Muffins

In Chapter Three, Leo keeps a container of fresh blueberry muffins in his cabin refrigerator—a gift of insider knowledge from Maya, who tells him: "These are Felicity's favorite. When she says she's not hungry, offer her these. She'll eat them."

Prep time: 15 minutes | Bake time: 22–25 minutes | Yield: 12 bakery-style muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp fine sea salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 cup whole milk or buttermilk
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries (tossed with 1 tbsp flour to prevent sinking)
- 2 tbsp coarse turbinado sugar (for crunchy muffin crowns)

Instructions:

01 Preheat & Prep: Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners or grease thoroughly.

02 Whisk Dry Ingredients: In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt.

03 Combine Wet Ingredients: In a separate medium bowl, whisk together the melted butter, eggs, milk, and vanilla extract until smooth.

04 Fold Gently: Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients. Stir with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula just until combined (do not overmix; a few lumps are fine). Gently fold in the floured blueberries.

05 Scoop & Top: Divide batter evenly among muffin cups, filling almost to the top. Generously sprinkle turbinado sugar over each muffin top.

06 Bake: Bake for 22 to 25 minutes, or until muffin tops are golden and a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before serving warm with butter and fresh coffee.

Recipe 2: Uncle Gideon's "Pancakes with Hearts"

In Chapter Twelve, when Felicity and Leo return battered from their ordeal, they walk into Maya and Gideon's kitchen to find Gideon cutting fresh strawberries into heart shapes to top fluffy buttermilk pancakes for little Rebel.

Prep time: 10 minutes | Cook time: 15 minutes | Yield: 4 servings (approx. 10–12 pancakes)

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups cold buttermilk
- 2 large eggs
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Butter or oil for the griddle

The Strawberry Heart Topping:

- 1 pint fresh ripe strawberries
- Pure maple syrup (warm)
- Whipped cream (optional)

Instructions:

01 Prepare the Strawberry Hearts: Hull the strawberries. Slice a small V-notch into the top stem of each berry, then slice downward into vertical cross-sections. Each slice will naturally form a bright red heart. Set aside.

02 Mix the Batter: In a large bowl, whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In another bowl, beat buttermilk, eggs, melted butter, and vanilla. Stir wet mixture into dry ingredients until just incorporated. Let batter rest for 5 minutes.

03 Griddle: Heat a lightly greased cast-iron skillet or griddle over medium heat (approx. 350°F). Pour 1/4 cup batter per pancake. Cook until bubbles form on top and edges look set (about 2–3 minutes). Flip and cook 1–2 minutes more until golden brown.

04 Serve: Stack pancakes warm, arrange fresh strawberry hearts across the top, and drizzle generously with warm maple syrup.

Questions Worth Discussing

Part I: Trauma, Scars, and Recovery

01 The Nature of Scars: Leo Kavanaugh carries physical scars on his face from a helicopter crash and emotional scars from freezing during a hostage standoff. How does Leo's perception of his scars differ from how Felicity and Rebel perceive them? What does the story say about the difference between being "broken" and being "worthless"?

02 Parental Expectations: Leo is constantly haunted by the critical voice of his father calling him a "weakling." How did this childhood wound influence his military career, his emotional reticence, and his initial reluctance to accept his feelings for Felicity?

03 Sanctuary and Community: Broken Chains Ranch is designed as a healing sanctuary. How does the open, supportive environment created by Maya, Gideon, and Rachel contrast with the rigid, secretive military and law enforcement bureaucracies portrayed in the novel?

Part II: Motherhood, Secrets, and Guilt

01 Felicity's Sacrifice: After Seth's death, Felicity gave temporary custody of Rebel to her sister Gwen and hid her daughter's true paternity. Do you sympathize with Felicity's decision to hide her daughter to protect her from Roarke? At what point did keeping the secret begin to hurt more than it protected?

02 The Unmasking Moment: When Leo realizes Rebel is calling Felicity "Mommy" and discovers the truth, he responds with understanding rather than anger. Why was Leo able to understand her motives so quickly, and how did his reaction help Felicity release her lingering shame?

03 Innocence as an Antidote: Three-year-old Rebel operates as the emotional heart of the novel. How does her innocence, laughter, and spontaneous affection break down the tactical defenses of both Felicity and Leo?

Part III: Service Dogs & The Canine Connection

01 Auggie vs. Scout: Auggie is an energetic young German shepherd in training for explosives detection, while Scout is an experienced Belgian Malinois veteran who survived an ambush. How do these two dogs reflect the different stages of healing and trauma experienced by the human characters?

02 The Logic of Canine Tracking: When Felicity is abducted and forced into a creek bed, Auggie—who is not trained for search-and-rescue—manages to track her to an isolated cabin. What does this demonstrate about the unique bond between a handler and their dog?

03 K-9s as Evidence: Seth chose to hide the trafficking evidence on Scout's data chip rather than in an official military file. Why did Seth trust his dog more than his human chain of command?

Part IV: Betrayal & The Phantom Enemy

01 The Deception of Brian Miller: For most of the book, Colonel Silas Roarke is treated as a living, terrifying threat, only for readers to learn he had been dead for two years and that Brian Miller was the real villain. Did you suspect Brian before Felicity noticed the clues on his phone? How did Miller exploit Felicity's trust and grief?

02 Redacted Files and Truth: Leo uses his forensic detective training to discover that the military documents describing Seth's mission were selectively redacted to frame him as a traitor. What commentary does the book make on how powerful institutions can manipulate records to protect corrupt leaders?

Part V: Faith, Grace, and the Future

01 Praying Through Desperation: Both Felicity and Leo struggle with formal prayer, often feeling disconnected from God due to their trauma. However, during moments of crisis, their prayers become raw, instinctive cries for help. How does their understanding of faith evolve over the course of the story?

02 Redirection vs. Defeat: Near the end of the novel, Leo reflects that God did not bring him to Broken Chains Ranch merely to recover his old life in Denver, but to redirect him toward a new family. Have you ever experienced a life disruption that turned out to be a positive redirection?

Make It a Book Club Night

K-9 Service Organization Spotlight: In honor of Scout and Auggie, encourage your book club members to research and support an organization that trains and provides service dogs or therapy dogs to wounded combat veterans and first responders (such as K9s For Warriors or local veteran K-9 charities).

The "Redacted File" Icebreaker: Before the meeting, prepare index cards containing fun or surprising facts about book club members, but black out key words with a dark marker (simulating the redacted military reports Leo examined). Have the group try to deduce the missing details and guess which member the card belongs to!

A Taste of Nashville & Whitestone: If meeting in person, set up a coffee-tasting bar with French press or pour-over coffee using freshly ground beans, pairing it with warm blueberry muffins, buttermilk pancakes, and sweet tea in true Tennessee ranch fashion.

Series Roadmap: Discuss how Missing Asset connects with Book 1 (Twilight Tactics, featuring Collin "Sully" Sullivan and Elena Thompson) and Book 3 (Zero Hour, featuring Rhett Lawson and Evie Rahman). Trace how Broken Chains Ranch continues to expand its community of healing across the series.

A final note

Thank you for reading Missing Asset and sharing its story with your book club. May your conversation be as memorable as the characters who inspired it.

LYNETTE EASON

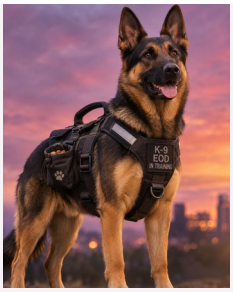
K-9 Mission: Scout & Auggie

CLASSIFIED • K-9 FIELD EXERCISE

Put your knowledge of the two working dogs to the test. Follow the clues, separate fact from fiction, and see which team knows the K-9 partners best.



SCOUT / BELGIAN MALINOIS



AUGGIE / GERMAN SHEPHERD

Your mission

Play solo or in teams of 2–4. Allow 15–20 minutes. Use only your memory of the novel and the character dossiers; no phones or books until scoring. One point per correct answer, for 18 possible points.

ROUND ONE / WHOSE FILE? Write S for Scout, A for Auggie, or B for Both next to each of the twelve clues on the answer sheet.

01 A Belgian Malinois with experience as a military working dog.

02 A black-and-tan German Shepherd preparing for explosives-detection duty.

03 Served as Seth O'Reilly's devoted K-9 partner.

04 Especially motivated by food rewards.

05 Is training for a future role with the Nashville Police Department.

06 Survived the ambush in which Seth was killed.

07 Helped track Felicity after her abduction, despite lacking search-and-rescue training.

08 Carried concealed evidence that could help expose a criminal operation.

09 Helped Felicity feel grounded during distress.

10 Is one of the two K-9s featured in the book's character profiles.

11 Is discussed by Felicity in her fictional character interview.

12 Was protected by Beckett Taylor and later cared for by Patricia Voss.

Your Field Report

TEAM / PLAYER NAME: _____

Round one: whose file? / 12 points

Circle one answer for each number: S = Scout | A = Auggie | B = Both

01	S	A	B	02	S	A	B	03	S	A	B
04	S	A	B	05	S	A	B	06	S	A	B
07	S	A	B	08	S	A	B	09	S	A	B
10	S	A	B	11	S	A	B	12	S	A	B

Round two: fact or fiction? / 6 points

Mark T for true or F for false. These statements follow the book club kit's account of events.

13 _____ Scout was believed dead before Felicity learned he had survived.

14 _____ Auggie has already completed his Nashville Police Department training.

15 _____ Seth concealed evidence using a data recorder associated with Scout.

16 _____ Auggie was formally trained as a search-and-rescue dog.

17 _____ Beckett Taylor and Patricia Voss were part of Scout's survival story.

18 _____ Seth hid the key evidence in an ordinary military personnel file.

SCORE Round one _____ / 12 Round two _____ / 6 TOTAL _____ / 18

Mission Debrief

The debrief / No wrong answers

01 Why does Scout's survival mean so much to Felicity beyond the evidence he carries?

_____

_____

_____

02 Auggie is trained for explosives detection, yet follows Felicity's trail. How does that twist affect the stakes in the story?

_____

_____

_____

03 What do Scout and Auggie reveal about loyalty, trust, and the way people recover after loss?

_____

_____

_____

Host tips

Read the clues aloud, or let players work from the printed sheet. Reveal the answer key only after everyone has finished. For a tie, ask teams to explain why Scout's evidence matters or how Auggie helped find Felicity; award the win for the strongest text-supported explanation.

The game is based on the character profiles, interviews, and discussion questions in this kit. It contains plot spoilers and is intended for readers who have finished the novel.

Host Answer Key

Round one / 1 point each

01 S — Scout is a Belgian Malinois.

02 A — Auggie is a German Shepherd EOD trainee.

03 S — Scout was Seth's military K-9 partner.

04 A — Auggie is described as highly food-motivated.

05 A — Auggie is preparing for Nashville police duty.

06 S — Scout survived the ambush.

07 A — Auggie tracked abducted Felicity.

08 S — Scout carried concealed evidence.

09 A — Auggie grounds and comforts Felicity.

10 B — Both have character profiles.

11 B — Felicity talks about both dogs in her interview.

12 S — Beckett and Patricia protected Scout.

Round two / 1 point each

13. TRUE — Scout was thought to have died with Seth.

14. FALSE — Auggie is still in EOD training.

15. TRUE — Seth used an encrypted data recorder associated with Scout.

16. FALSE — Auggie is not trained for search-and-rescue.

17. TRUE — Beckett rescued Scout; Patricia kept him safe.

18. FALSE — The evidence was linked to Scout, not a military personnel file.

Scorecard

16–18: Elite K-9 Team 12–15: Field-Ready Investigators 8–11: Promising Recruits 0–7: Back to the Training Yard

Source check: Answers use the supplied Missing Asset book club document—character profiles (Scout, Auggie), the Felicity interview, and the K-9 discussion questions. No independently researched animal-training claims are required.