

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Garnet Face

by Cathy Ace



General topics:

1. Which character would you most like to invite to join your Book Club for this meeting? Why?
2. Which character would you cross the street to avoid? Why?
3. If you were casting a movie of this book, who would you cast in which parts?
4. Cait's pretty sure of herself, until she isn't. She's pretty bossy, until she's scared. She's got a photographic memory, but forgets things. She likes to take charge, but turns to Bud for support. She's comfortable with her weight, but tries to joke about it before others can mention it. She loves to smoke, but knows it's bad for her. Why are we humans so contradictory? Are you? How? Why? List some other fictional characters who are defined by contradiction.
5. The world famous "Detection Club", whose members included Agatha Christie, drew up "rules" for mystery novels. One of them was that a clue that could help solve the case must not be concealed from the reader. What were the clues that helped Cait solve the case? How many of them did you spot as you were reading? When did you solve the case?

Relating specifically to “The Corpse with the Garnet Face”

1. The book contains references to lots of works of art, as befitting a book set in a city (Amsterdam) where so much art is present. There are lots of places on the Internet where you can see the art referred to. Why not have a wander around in the online world and check out the pieces referred to by Cait, Bud and the other characters? Which pieces did you like? Which weren't to your taste? Why/why not? Who are your favourite artists? Have you just discovered some you'd like to investigate further? Never heard of “The Group of Seven”? Again, there are a lot of ways you can find out more about them online. Here's one link:

<http://www.groupofseven.ca/>

2. Is anyone in your group from The Netherlands? Descended from Dutch stock? Anyone ever visited? How about Dutch-themed food for your gathering?

3. This book features a group of people who have a “common interest” – art. Your book club shares a common interest – books! What do you feel you gain from sharing your love of something like art, books, quilting etc? How do you cope with the benefits vs the challenges of belonging to a group?

4. Bud and Cait follow the wishes of a dead relative. Would you have done what they did? Why/why not? Have you ever been asked to do something similar?

5. The history of The Netherlands tells us many artists traveled there for the unique light. This is something artists say about other places too (southern Spain, the south of France etc). Van Gogh spent a great deal of time outside the Netherlands “chasing the light”. What's unique about where you live that might attract artists? Does it? How does their art show off your locale? Ever been tempted to “join in and make art”?

6. There are stories about “lost” works of art popping up in the strangest places – barns, attics, outhouses etc. Has anything like this happened to you, someone you know, someone in your area?

7. Real vs reproduction? Would you rather have a reproduction of a great work of art on your wall, or a real piece created by someone you know/love/is local/are supporting by buying their work? Why?

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Thanks for choosing to read this book!