

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Platinum Hair

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 Platinum Hair”

1. Even for those who are not truly fans of opera, some pieces have wriggled their way into our lives; arias in elevators, duets in diners, a chorus or two in the parking lot of a supermarket are all commonplace. What’s your favorite piece? Why? Do you know what it’s called, or who wrote it? Can you find out? Want to play it for your book club members? Your cue for a sing-along?
2. It’s something of an understatement to say that Russian history is complex. Does anyone in your group have Russian heritage? Do you know anyone who does? Have a look online at some Tsarist Russia art and architecture. Do you like it, or find it ugly? Has anyone in the group ever visited Russia? Does anyone in the group own anything of Russian heritage...maybe you’ve got a Fabergé egg hidden in a cupboard? How about some show and tell? At least take some time to look at the beauties that Fabergé created, online.
3. In this book only one person was born and raised in the local area around Las Vegas. That’s not unusual; Vegas attracts new residents, as well as tourists, from around the USA and the world. What about where you live - are most people “from” the local area, or did they arrive from somewhere else? What difference does that make to a/your village, town, or city?
4. Who in the group has been to Vegas? What story about Vegas sums it up for those who have been? For those who haven’t been, would you like to go or not, and why/why not?
5. Miss Shirley can have whatever food and drink she wants served for her at her private restaurant. If money, and practicality, were no object, what would you have on the menu at your private restaurant? What do you think of your fellow group-members’ choices?
6. Probably the most famous “closed room” mystery is *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE* by Agatha Christie. *THE CORPSE WITH THE PLATINUM HAIR* is also a “closed room” mystery. Do you prefer this type of tale, where the victim/s, suspect/s, sleuth/s and killer/s are all confined within one “closed” space, from which there’s no escape (in this book it’s a restaurant, in Christie’s famous tale it was an island) or do you prefer the “locked room” mystery—where the victim is locked inside a room/locale, to which no one could possibly have gained entry to kill them (or so we are led to believe!)? Why? (A good example – indeed the first ever example – of a “locked room” mystery is Edgar Allen Poe’s *THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE*.)

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Thank you for choosing to read this book!