

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Granite Heart

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, so is always "trying to give up". 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 Granite Heart"

1. The book is set in London, England. Is anyone in the group British? From London? Has anyone in the group visited London? (How about an English-themed evening? Or what about pre-Christmas treats...whatever the time of year you're reading this!) How do the experiences of

London and/or England within the group compare with what's described in the book (hopefully not the murders!)?

2. Like all the Cait Morgan Mysteries, this is a closed-circle mystery – one where only a small number of people could have “dunnit”. It also refers to murders committed by people who were “used” by another to do their dirty work. That presumes that a person can be “talked into” having murderous intent. Certainly there are examples from real life where this has happened...though most of us believe we would never kill another person, whatever the circumstances. Or would we? Here's hoping you enjoy a heated debate on this topic!

3. Shakespeare's works influenced the writing of this book, and there are Shakespearean motifs (jealousy, power, weakness) and imagery woven throughout the book. What examples did you spot? Are you a fan of Shakespeare? Did you study his works at school...or beyond that? What do you love or hate about his works? What about all the sayings we use on a daily basis that were originally penned by Shakespeare...love them, hate them, not really aware of them?

4. In this book, Cait's returning to a place where she lived decades earlier. She's happy to see some things that haven't changed, sad to see others literally cease to exist, and finds she's able to psychologically let go of others. Have you ever returned to a place you once lived and experienced the same range of discoveries, and emotions? How did you feel about the prospect of returning – and what about afterwards? Can we ever “step in the same river twice”? What does that saying mean for you? If you haven't done it – is there a place from your past you'd like to return to? Why? Is there a place from your past you would hate to return to? Why?

The Corpse with the Granite Heart:

ISBN 978-1-9992230-9-0 (e-book)

ISBN 978-1-990550-00-3 (paperback)

Author: Cathy Ace

Publisher: Four Tails Publishing Ltd.

Year of publication: 2021

Thank you for choosing to read this book!