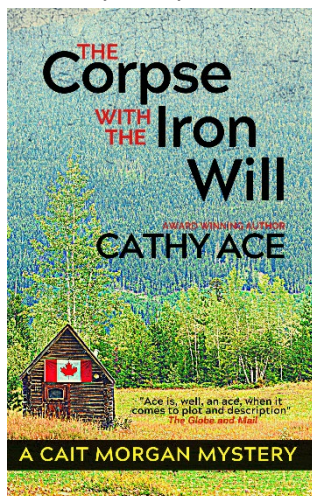


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Iron Will

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 Iron Will"

1. The book is set halfway up a little mountain in rural British Columbia. Is anyone in the group from British Columbia, or a Canadian? Has anyone in the group visited British Columbia? (How about a Canadian-themed evening?) How do the experiences of British Columbia 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 many years earlier, and the question of a secret identity. How do you think you’d cope with finding out that someone you “thought you knew” was, in fact, someone entirely different?

3. Gordy Krantz’s will requires people to do some strange things – have you ever been bequeathed anything? Would you do what a person’s will asked you to in order to inherit...and unknown “something”? Okay – let’s do it: someone whose loss doesn’t throw you into an abyss of misery has left you a chunk of money – what would you do with it (agree among yourselves how much “a chunk” means!)?

4. This book was written when most of us were not able to get out and about much, if at all. Rather than writing a book set during a pandemic (I don’t know when you’re reading this!) I wanted to write a book that challenged my characters to reconsider what they felt about their home. Have you changed the way you think of home, and security, in recent months/years? What about the role of community in your life – has that changed too? Will it ever be the same?

5. Cait faces some uncomfortable situations in this book: her neighbours’ (yes, the Canadian spelling here, folks!) lives are put under a microscope. She also has to wonder if she and Bud are – like some of those neighbours – “hiding out” in rural splendour. Do you live in a neighbourhood where you wonder what’s going on behind closed doors? Do you ever wonder why folks have come to live where they have – and what about you...what made you choose to live where you do?

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Thank you for choosing to read this book!