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Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

Busybody Book Club by Freya Sampson

Summary

The five members of the St. Tredock Book Club disagree on everything, from the books they read to the biscuits they eat. But when one of the group suddenly disappears and a dead body is discovered at his house, these bibliophiles must put their differences aside to solve the mystery.

Having recently moved to Cornwall, Nova Davies started the book club to impress her new colleagues at the community center, but so far it's a disaster. To make matters worse, six thousand pounds is stolen from the community center during one of her meetings, putting both her job and the whole center at risk.

Suspicion for the theft falls on book club member Michael, especially when a dead body is discovered at his house and Michael disappears. The police think he's simply run away, but the other members have their own theories. Agatha Christie superfan Phyllis is determined to prove he's a murderer as well as a thief, while secret romance reader Arthur believes Michael's eloped with his mistress, and teenage sci-fi fan Ash thinks dark forces are at play.

While trying to find Michael and recover the money, each book club member has their own secrets to protect. With inspiration from their favorite fictional sleuths, they won't rest until they've cracked the case and everyone is safe at home where they belong.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the characters in The Busybody Book Club would you most enjoy inviting to your own book club meeting?
2. At times Nova found it difficult to speak up for herself. Where in the story did you see her fellow book club members helping her grow?
3. Like her heroine, Miss Marple, Phyllis claims that you should always believe the worst in people. Do you think the events of this book prove her right or wrong? Do you have any mottoes in your own life?

4. Did Ash and Arthur's unlikely friendship surprise you as they bonded over books? Have you found in your own experiences that books can bring people from different circumstances together in a shared love of the story or characters?
5. Have you ever visited the English seaside? Did you enjoy the setting of St. Tredock in Cornwall?
6. The community center is vital to the St. Tredock community. Are there any similar spaces that are the heart of your own community?
7. All of the main characters in the story have a secret. Whose secret did you find the most surprising?
8. Who did you suspect was behind the theft and the murder? Did your suspicions change at all as the story went on?
9. Each of the book club members has a specific genre of book they particularly like to read. Do you have a favorite genre you come back to time and again?
10. At the start of the story, Nova thinks the book club is a disaster. Do you think she's right? What do you think is the key to a successful book club?
11. If you could suggest one book for The Busybody Book Club to read, what would it be and why?

Summary from GoodReads.com
Discussion Questions from BookBrowse.com