



BOOK CLUB  
RESOURCE GUIDE

Southern Fiction



THANK YOU FOR  
CONSIDERING A SAFFRON  
SUN FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK  
CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB  
RESOURCE GUIDE

A Saffron Sun

A Saffron Sun is a gripping novel by Vera Jane Cook, a bestselling author of historical fiction and suspense. The book tells the story of Dickie, a wealthy and respected businessman who falls in love with Lottie, his wife's best friend. When his wife discovers their affair, she sets fire to Lottie's house, killing her in a blaze of jealousy and rage. Dickie and his mother must cover up the crime and protect his wife from the law, but the secrets and lies soon take a toll on their lives and sanity.

WORD COUNT: 71,900

PAGE COUNT: 328

KEY WORDS: southern fiction | women's fiction | narrative fiction | LGBT

DEMOGRAPHICS: Readers who appreciate historical and cultural settings

COMP BOOKS: The Help by Kathryn Stockett | Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty | The

Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield | The Secret History by Donna Tartt

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## Saffron Sunset

A cocktail with a fiery orange hue and a sweet and spicy flavor.

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 teaspoon of saffron threads
- 1/4 cup of boiling water
- 1/4 cup of honey
- 2 ounces of vodka
- 1 ounce of orange juice
- 1/2 ounce of lemon juice
- A dash of Angostura bitters
- Ice cubes
- Orange peel for garnish

### Directions:

- In a small bowl, steep the saffron threads in the boiling water for about 10 minutes, or until the water turns a deep yellow color.
- Strain the saffron water and discard the threads. Stir in the honey until dissolved. This is your saffron syrup.
- In a cocktail shaker, combine the vodka, orange juice, lemon juice, bitters, and 2 tablespoons of the saffron syrup. Shake well with ice.
- Strain the cocktail into a chilled martini glass. Twist an orange peel over the drink and drop it in. Enjoy your Saffron Sunset!



# SIGNATURE DRINK

- Somebody That I Used To Know by Gotye Kimbra
- You Oughta Know by Alanis Morissette
- Jolene by Dolly Parto
- Mr. Brightside by The Killers
- Rolling In The Deep by Adele
- Cry Me A River by Justin Timberlake
- Don't Speak by No Doubt
- Bad Blood by Taylor Swift
- Betty by Taylor Swift
- You Give Love A Bad Name by Bon Jovi



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE  
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN THE  
DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- How did you feel about Dickie's affair with Lottie? Did you sympathize with him or condemn him? Why?
- What do you think motivated Deborah to set the fire that killed Lottie? Was she justified in any way? How did her actions affect her family and the town?
- How did Lillian, Dickie's mother, influence his decisions and actions? Did she have his best interests at heart or was she more concerned about appearances and reputation?
- How did the blood moon symbolize the events and emotions in the book? What other symbols or imagery did the author use to enhance the story?
- What did you think of the ending of the book? Were you satisfied or disappointed? Why?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the name of the protagonist's lover who died in a fire?
- 2) What is the name of the protagonist's wife who set the fire?
- 3) What is the name of the protagonist's son who is a businessman?
- 4) What is the name of the swamp where the protagonist and his mother disposed of Lottie's body?
- 5) What is the name of the phenomenon that made the night sky red when Lottie died?





Vera Jane Cook (Jane to friends and family) was born in New York City and has been a city girl ever since. As an only child, she turned to reading novels at an early age and was deeply influenced by an eclectic group of authors. Before Jane became a writer, she worked in the professional theatre and appeared on television, in regional theatre, film and off Broadway.

At the age of fifty Jane began to write novels. Some of her titles include *Dancing Backward in Paradise*, winner of an Eric Hoffer Award for publishing excellence and an Indie Excellence Award for notable new fiction, 2007. *The Story of Sassy Sweetwater* and *Dancing Backward in Paradise* received 5 Star ForeWord Clarion Reviews and *The Story of Sassy Sweetwater* was named a finalist for the ForeWord Book of the Year Awards. She has published in *ESL Magazine*, *Christopher Street Magazine* and has written early childhood curriculum for *Weekly Reader* and *McGraw Hill*.

Jane still lives on the upper west side of Manhattan right near Riverside Park where she takes her delightful dogs for a jog, Peanut and Carly. She comes home to her spouse of thirty years and her two cats, Sassy and Sweetie Pie. She works at a day job, *Learning Ally*, a nonprofit organization that helps struggling readers develop a lifelong love of reading and a passion for books.


## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <https://verajanecook.com/>

OTHER BOOKS: *Pleasant Day* | *The Darlings Series* | *The Fourniers Series*

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

- ◆ FACEBOOK
- ◆ TWITTER
- ◆ GOODREADS
- ◆ LINKEDIN
- ◆ PINTREST

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- 1)Lottie
  - 2)Deborah
  - 3)Barnaby
  - 4)Sutter's
  - 5)Blood moon

TRIVIA ANSWERS