

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
THRILLER

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the background, there are two tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. In the center, a wooden chair with a curved back stands next to a light-colored sofa. The floor is covered with a patterned rug. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a warm color palette.

THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING METAL
VIPER FOR YOUR NEXT
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

SARAH LOVETT &
RON SCHULTZ

When a brutal military coup tears Myanmar apart, a young boy and his father are swept into a nightmare that exposes the darkest corners of power. Across the world, a relentless human rights advocate races against time to uncover the truth and save those trapped inside a system built on fear. *Metal Viper* weaves together courage, corruption, and the unbreakable bonds of family in a gripping thriller inspired by real events. This is a story of resistance, sacrifice, and the quiet acts of bravery that can change the course of a nation.

WORD COUNT: 71, 464

PAGE COUNT: 276

KEY WORDS: Myanmar coup thriller | Human rights fiction | Global activism fiction | NGO thriller | International thriller

DEMOGRAPHICS: Adults 25–70 who enjoy political thrillers grounded in real-world events

COMP BOOKS: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini | *The Night Manager* by John le Carré | *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry | *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

ISBN: 978-1-64456-883-5 [HARDCOVER]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-884-2 [PAPERBACK]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-885-9 [KINDLE]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-886-6 [EPUB]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-887-3 [AUDIOBOOK]

LCCN: 2026901969

Poems on the Wall Interactive Installation

Inspired by Dampa's bakery.

- Provide slips of parchment or rice paper.
- Ask each guest to write a short poem, a message of hope, or a line about courage.
- Pin them to a wall or string them on twine with clothespins.
- By the end of the night, the wall becomes a living tribute to resistance and community.

Optional twist:

Have everyone wrap a small treat (cookie, naan, candy) in someone else's poem to take home.

Voices in the Dark Story Circle

A gentle, atmospheric activity that mirrors the emotional tone of the novel.

- Dim the lights and use candles or lanterns.
- Each person shares a moment in their life when they witnessed bravery — big or small.
- Keep it reflective, warm, and supportive.

This creates a powerful emotional bridge to the book's themes.

THEMED BOOK CLUB PARTY -Voices Against Silence

Decode the Coup Mini Mystery Game

A light, engaging activity based on the book's political tension.

- Create envelopes labeled "Confidential."
- Inside each: a short fictional clue, a quote from the book, or a coded message.
- Guests work in pairs to "decode" the message.
- The solution always ties back to a theme: justice, courage, truth, family, resistance.

This adds a thriller-like energy without spoiling the plot.

Human Rights Spotlight Reflection Table

A quiet corner for those who want deeper engagement.

- Provide a small display with brief, accessible facts about Myanmar's real events (non-political, purely informational).
- Include a map, a timeline, and a few anonymized stories of resilience.
- Offer a notebook where guests can write reflections or hopes for global justice.

This honors the book's real-world roots.

THEMED BOOK CLUB PARTY -Voices Against Silence

Character Compass Discussion Game

A fun way to start conversation

- Print cards with character names (Vika, Dampa, Kae, U Min, etc.).
- Each card has 3–4 prompts like:
- “What motivates this character?”
- “What moment defines them?”
- “What would you ask them if they were here?”
- Guests draw a card and answer.

It keeps discussion lively and varied.

Letters to the Characters Activity

A reflective, creative writing moment.

- Provide stationery and pens.
- Ask guests to write a short letter to one character:
 - encouragement
 - a question
 - something they wish they could tell them
- Guests can read them aloud or keep them private.

This deepens emotional connection to the story.

THEMED BOOK CLUB PARTY -Voices Against Silence

A Myanmar-inspired table with comfort foods that reflect the novel's setting and emotional tone.

Main Dishes

- Mohinga — Myanmar's national fish noodle soup; warm, aromatic, comforting
- Chicken Coconut Curry — mild, creamy, fragrant

Sides

- Tea Leaf Salad (Lahpet Thoke) — tangy, crunchy, iconic
- Paratha with Honey — nod to Vika's bakery roots

Dessert

- Sanwei Makin (Semolina Cake) — sweet, soft, and directly referenced in the story

Recipes (Simplified)

- Mohinga: fish broth, lemongrass, ginger, turmeric, rice noodles, boiled egg
- Tea Leaf Salad: fermented tea leaves, cabbage, peanuts, sesame seeds, lime
- Sanwei Makin: semolina, coconut milk, sugar, eggs, baked until golden

THEMED MENU



INGREDIENTS

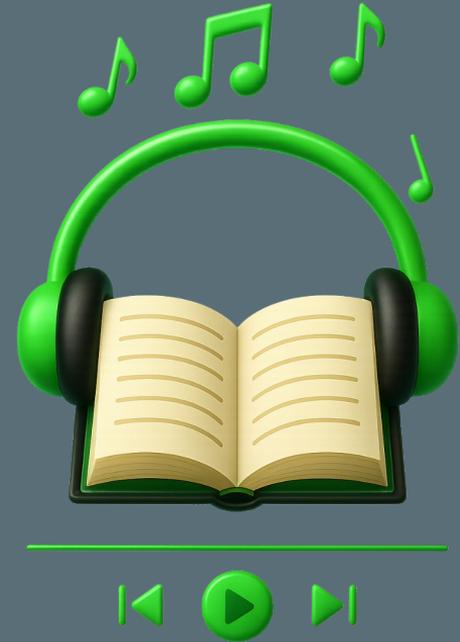
- 2 oz gin or vodka
Gin = sharper, more botanical bite. Vodka = cleaner, lets the smoke shine.
 - 1 oz fresh lime juice
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ oz ginger syrup
(Equal parts sugar + water + sliced ginger simmered 10 minutes, then strained.)
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz smoked tea (Lapsang Souchong), cooled
 - Chili-sugar rim
(2 parts sugar, 1 part chili powder, pinch of salt.)
- Instructions

DIRECTIONS

- Rim a tall rocks glass or coupe with lime, then dip into the chili-sugar mixture.
- Add gin/vodka, lime juice, ginger syrup, and smoked tea to a shaker with ice.
- Shake hard — this drink likes aggression.
- Strain into the prepared glass over fresh ice (or serve up, if you want it sleek and dangerous).
- Optional: garnish with a thin lime wheel or a sliver of candied ginger.

SIGNATURE DRINK - The Viper's Breath

Kabar Ma Kyay Bu (We Won't Be Satisfied Until the End of the World)" – Various Artists
Nara – E.S. Posthumus
Revolution – Wai La
Elegia – New Order
Sit Pyan (Fight Back) – Generation Z Artists
Experience – Ludovico Einaudi
The Host of Seraphim – Dead Can Dance
A Yay Kyii Tal – Various Artists
Shadow on the Sun – Audioslave
A Yoe Thaa Sung Siet Koo – Linn Linn
Seven Devils – Florence + The Machine
Spring Revolution Song – Anonymous Collective
Outro – M83
Way Down We Go – KALEO



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, there is a wooden chair with a curved back. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. In the background, a table with a plant on it is visible. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a light color palette.

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

WARNING

- How does the opening scene in the bakery set the emotional tone for the rest of the novel?
- In what ways does Vika's innocence heighten the impact of the political violence around him?
- How does the book portray the relationship between fear and power?
- What role does poetry play in the story, both symbolically and practically?
- How does Kae's personal history influence her choices and motivations?
- What does the novel suggest about the responsibilities of international organizations during crises?
- How do the authors balance real-world events with fictional storytelling?
- Which character's arc affected you the most, and why?
- How does the book explore the idea of bravery in both small and large acts?
- What emotions lingered with you after finishing the story, and what do they say about the book's impact?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Sarah Lovett writes international and psychological thrillers about ordinary people forced into extraordinary choices. She is the coauthor of *METAL VIPER*, set against the shadow networks of modern Myanmar. Lovett is the creator of the bestselling Dr. Sylvia Strange psychological-thriller series (Random House; Simon & Schuster), inspired by her work researching criminal cases for the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. During a pause from the darkest subjects while raising her daughter, she collaborated with former CIA officer Valerie Plame on *Blowback* and *Burned* for Penguin; *Blowback* is under option for film (screenplay by Nicole Saad). Beyond crime and espionage, Lovett authored 35+ titles in the award-winning *Extremely Weird* children's series (recognized by the National Science Foundation and adapted as a network TV special). A Rockefeller Foundation grantee and former Padua Hills guest playwright, she continues to explore the costs of secrecy, the uses of power, and human resilience.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

OTHER BOOKS: *Dark Alchemy* | *Dantes' Inferno* | *A Desperate Silence* | *Acquired Motive* | *Dangerous Attachments*



Ron Schultz is an award-winning author, editor, and social innovation leader with more than 30 published books spanning entrepreneurship, complexity science, meditation, and social change. He received the Social Innovation Leadership Award from the World CSR Congress in 2014. His works include *Creating Good Work*, *The Complex Buddhist*, *Open Boundaries*, and *Unconventional Wisdom*. In addition to nonfiction, he co-writes two thriller series — *The Dorje Shapiro Investigations* and *The Dangerous Places* series with Sarah Lovett, beginning with *Metal Viper*. Ron has also written hundreds of magazine articles and built a wide-ranging career in television and film, with credits from *He-Man* and the *Masters of the Universe* to the CBS Movie of the Week *The Switch*. He has spoken internationally at major forums and universities, and his archives were recently accepted by California State University, Northridge.

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OTHER BOOKS: *Open Boundaries* | *Unconventional Wisdom* | *Creating Good Work* | *The Complex Buddhist*