

BOOK CLUB RESOURCE GUIDE

MYSTERY



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In this gripping thriller, Beatrice Campbell, a Jamaican native and companion to the ailing Greta Gardner in San Francisco, finds herself entangled in a web of deception following the mysterious death of her employer. As Beatrice grapples with the loss, she uncovers a trail of secrets stretching back decades, involving Greta's closest friends and a controversial clinical trial. With each chapter, the stakes rise, and Beatrice must confront the truth behind the facade of high society. Will she unravel the litany of lies before it's too late? Dive into this page-turning mystery where trust is scarce, and every revelation leads to more questions.

WORD COUNT: 250 PAGE COUNT: 65,000

KEY WORDS: Mystery | Thriller | San Francisco | Socialite | Murder

DEMOGRAPHICS: Mystery and Thriller Enthusiasts

COMP BOOKS: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson | Big Little Lies by Liane

Moriarty | The Secret History by Donna Tartt | The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

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San Francisco Mist

Ingredients:

- 1 oz gin, representing the city's vibrant spirit.
- 1/2 oz elderflower liqueur, for the book's intricate plot twists.
- 1/2 oz fresh lemon juice, adding a touch of mystery.
- 2 oz chilled green tea, symbolizing the book's theme of revelation and truth.
- A sprig of lavender, to evoke the scents described in the book.

Preparation:

- In a shaker, combine gin, elderflower liqueur, and lemon juice.
- Add ice and shake well.
- Strain into a glass filled with ice.
- Top with chilled green tea.
- Garnish with a sprig of lavender.

Serving: Serve in a highball glass to enjoy the layers of flavor and the fusion of the book's essence with San Francisco's iconic fog—hence the name, San Francisco Mist. Cheers to a literary journey!

SIGNATURE DRINK

- Smooth Criminal by Michael Jackson
- The Sound of Silence by Simon & Garfunkel
- Bury a Friend by Billie Eilish
- Bad Guy by Billie Eilish
- Someone Like You by Adele
- Heathens by Twenty One Pilots
- Yesterday by The Beatles
- Rolling in the Deep by Adele
- Believer by Imagine Dragons
- ► Secrets by OneRepublic
- Love Story by Taylor Swift
- Unsteady by X Ambassadors
- Demons by Imagine Dragons
- Thunder by Imagine Dragons
- Let It Be by The Beatles



These songs range from reflective to suspenseful, matching the various moods and themes present in the book. Enjoy your reading session with this accompanying playlist!

SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

WARNING

- Character Analysis: What motivates Beatrice's loyalty to Greta, and how does her background influence her actions?
- Plot Development: How does the author build suspense around Greta's mysterious death?
- Themes Exploration: What themes are explored through the relationships between characters like Greta, Beatrice, and Bertie?
- **Setting Impact**: How does the setting of San Francisco contribute to the atmosphere of the story?
- Narrative Style: How does the author's use of third-person narration affect your understanding of the characters' inner thoughts?
- **Symbolism**: What symbolic significance do objects like the incense burner and the unicorn night light hold in the narrative?
- **Social Commentary**: What commentary on social class and privilege can be drawn from the characters' interactions and lifestyles?
- Character Relationships: How do the dynamics between Greta and her various companions reflect on her personality and past?
- Moral Dilemmas: What moral dilemmas do characters like Beatrice face, and how do they navigate them?
- Author's Purpose: What do you think the author is trying to convey about the nature of truth and deception in personal relationships?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Character Role-Play**: Members can choose characters from the book and act out key scenes, offering insights into the characters' motivations and relationships.
- **Themed Gathering**: Host a meeting with a theme related to the book's setting or plot, such as a Caribbean-inspired meal to reflect Beatrice's heritage.
- **Discussion Prompts**: Create prompts based on the book's themes, like the impact of missed opportunities on life's trajectory, to facilitate deeper conversations.
- **Creative Writing**: Encourage members to write short stories or alternate endings for the book, exploring different possibilities for the characters' futures.

GROUP ACTIVITIES SUGGESTIONS

Caribbean Chicken Soup

Inspired by Beatrice's Jamaican heritage, a nourishing soup with toned-down spiciness could be a comforting start for your book club.

To make a hearty and warming Caribbean Chicken Soup, you can follow these key steps:

- **Prepare Chicken Broth**: Clean the chicken and chicken feet, then cook them with vegetables and herbs in a pressure cooker or stock pot to create a rich broth.
- Cook the Soup: Sauté reserved chicken parts with onions, carrots, and green seasoning, then add the broth and other soup ingredients, including winter squash, corn, sweet potato, and optional spinach.
- **Season and Simmer**: Incorporate seasonings like scotch bonnet, allspice berries, and thyme, and let the soup simmer until the chicken is tender and flavors meld together.
- **Serve Warm**: Once the soup is ready, serve it warm, garnished with fresh herbs or additional spices to taste.

GROUP ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Cheese Straws & Charcuterie

Easy-to-share finger foods that reflect the snacks Beatrice considers for Greta. Each book club member could bring an item to create a fun snack board to share during discussions.

- Cheese Straws: As mentioned in the book, Beatrice prepares cheese straws, which are a classic and elegant addition to any charcuterie board1.
- Charcuterie Selection: Include a variety of cured meats such as salami, prosciutto di Parma, and other selections that pair well with cheese straws
- **Cheese Assortment**: Offer a range of cheeses, from sharp cheddar to triple crème cheese, to complement the flavors of the charcuterie
- **Accompaniments**: Add fresh figs, dried apricots, clementines, and nuts like Marcona almonds to provide a sweet and savory balance

These items reflect the culinary preferences within the book and would create a delightful and thematic charcuterie experience.

GROUP ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS



Lexa M. Mack is an avid mystery reader and writer who lives with her husband, a very fat cat, five chickens, and forty thousand honeybees in the Sierras near South Lake Tahoe. She spends her days blogging about the surprises of retirement and dreaming up creative ways to murder people.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: https://lexammack.com/

BOOK PURCHASING OPTIONS:

- AMAZON
- BARNES & NOBLE
- SMASHWORDS
- ◆ KOBO
- ◆ APPLE iBOOKS
- EVERAND