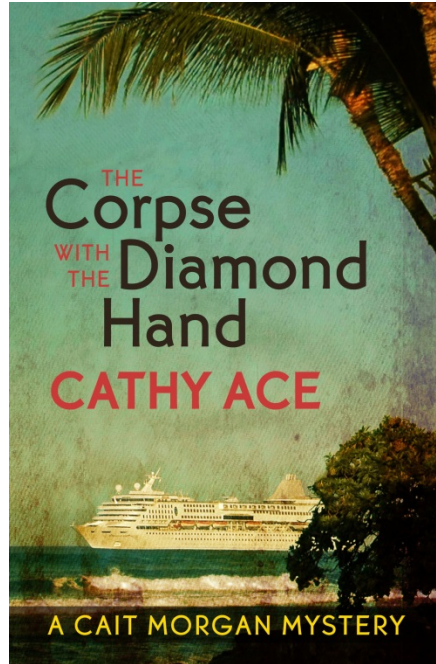


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Diamond Hand

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 Diamond Hand”

1. The book is set on a luxury ship that has cruised the Hawaiian Islands and is returning to Vancouver, BC. Has anyone in the group cruised? Anyone been to any of the Hawaiian Islands? (How about a Hawaiian-themed evening?) How did your experience compare with what’s described in the book (hopefully not the murder!)?

2. Like all the Cait Morgan Mysteries, this is a closed-circle mystery – one where only a small number of people could have “dunnit” – and Cait and Bud are, once again, determined to unmask the culprit to ensure justice is served. However, this book also raises another key issue – the effect that being suspected of a crime of which one is innocent can have upon a person. Cait has experienced this herself, and doesn’t want others to have their lives blighted in the same way. Do you believe suspects can ever truly expect to be viewed by the world as “innocent until proven guilty” or is that not possible in today’s digital world? How do you think your opinion impacts the idea of jury trials being “fair”?

3. One of the characters in this book reveals to Bud they have a terminal condition. This is a difficult topic, and it might be one your group would prefer to avoid...but, if you are up to it, how do end-of-life decisions impact loved ones? Cait and Bud discuss how receiving such news themselves might be more difficult to handle than they had thought. To tell, or not to tell? What do you think?

4. Though there are a few dark strands in this book, there is light too: life on a luxury ship can be a little over-the-top...what’s the most outrageously luxurious experience you have ever had? What’s “living life large” for you? How do the dreams of “the perfect vacation” differ within the group? Do any of you have “A Bucket List”? Do you want to share what’s on it? How have your views of what’s “an indulgence” changed over the years?

5. Poi – it’s a food that’s quite specific to Hawai’i. Have any of you ever eaten it? What did you think? What about other foods you have tasted once, and never want to taste again? What foods do you enjoy that you know are “an acquired taste”?

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Thank you for choosing to read this book!