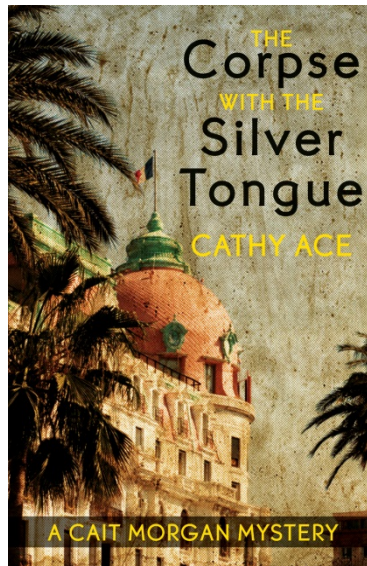


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

The Corpse with the Silver Tongue

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 Silver Tongue”

1. One of the themes of this book is “possession” – of things, of people, of power. Which characters seek to possess what? What are the repercussions?
2. While the specifics of history and location have been changed, the Roman Museum at Cimiez, the apartments initially built as a hotel and used by the occupying forces during World War Two and, of course, the bars and restaurants of the Cours Saleya in Nice are all real. Have you ever been to Nice? To France? What did you think of the architecture? Did you feel the layers of history all around you when you were there? Would you like to go? Why? Or why not? What do you know of French history? Would you like to know more, now?
3. Madelaine Schiafino made certain decisions about how to cope with, and survive, the German occupation, and how to live her life thereafter. Cait made a decision about how to deal with her attacker. Is it wrong to do whatever it takes to survive? Is there a line you wouldn't cross, even if it meant you'd be likely to die?
4. Is Tamsin strong, or weak? Why? Is Cait strong, or weak? Why?
5. The book mentions some “controversial” foods. Cultural norms differ: what one culture sees as a delicacy, another sees as disgusting, unappealing, or cruelly produced. What's the most unusual thing you've ever eaten? What would you *never* eat? What do you eat that you know some folks wouldn't touch? How about the group trying out some “unconventional delicacies” at the meeting?
6. Cait believes that Bud and Jan are soul-mates. Do you believe there's such a thing as a “soul-mate”? If so, why? If not, why not?
7. Why do you think Bud acted the way he did after Jan's death? Do you think Cait did the right thing, turning him down? Have you ever been faced with someone doing something you think they are doing for the wrong reasons, or at the wrong time, and you've taken some sort of action to help them avoid making a mistake in their life? How did it turn out?

The Corpse with the Silver Tongue: ISBN 978-1927129098

Author: Cathy Ace

Publisher: TouchWood Editions

Year of publication: 2012

Thank you for choosing to read this book!