

Discussion Questions for Book Clubs

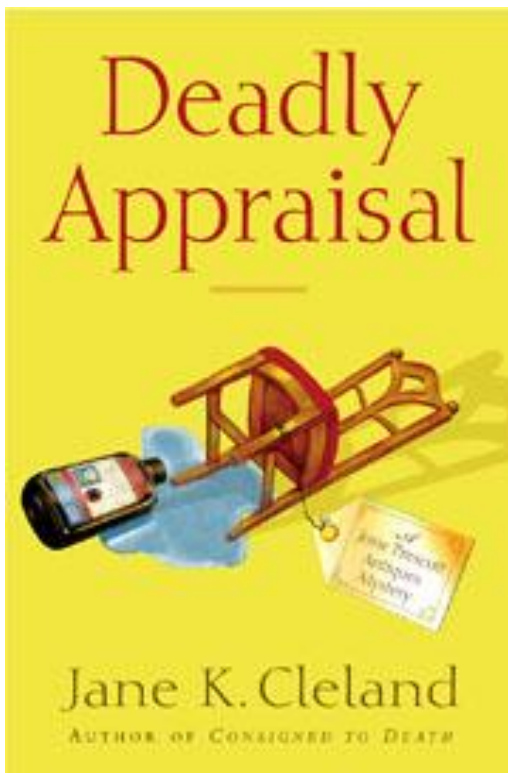
Most people who are enthusiastic participants in book clubs know that it's the lively exchange of thoughtful opinions that makes them fun and engaging. The following questions and ideas are intended to help guide discussions, but Jane wants to encourage you not to feel limited to these questions—what do you want to talk about? [Contact Jane](#) directly so she can attend or call into your Book Club.

Deadly Appraisal

Recipe— "A Little Lift"

Pour two shot glasses worth of Bombay Sapphire gin into a cocktail shaker two thirds full of ice. Add a cap-full of dry vermouth. Squeeze a lemon wedge worth of juice into the shaker. Shake well. Pour the mixture through the strainer into your frozen glass. (Keep your martini glasses in the freezer.)

Add a lemon twist... take a lemon and pound it on the counter a few times to "loosen the juice." Using a sharp knife, cut into the peel just deep enough to pierce the skin, but not the fruit, and draw the blade down from end to end. Starting at the same point and ending at the same point, draw the blade down again at a slight arc. Remove the cut out piece. You'll be holding a 1/8" sliver of lemon peel. Twist the piece into a spiral, drop into the gin, and swirl.



1. Prepare martinis for your guests. Josie sometimes enjoys martinis straight up with a twist.
2. Read or reread the book.
3. When you're ready to begin, spend a few minutes explaining:
4. What you liked best about the book
 - o Plot points that struck you as especially significant
 - o Which character or characters were most intriguing
 - o Anything that you didn't like or that confused you
5. Start with a closed-ended question such as "Did you like the book?"
6. Facilitate a discussion of *Deadly Appraisal* by asking a series of open-ended questions such as:
 - o Why are whistle blowers so hated?
 - o Josie reveres her father. Whom do you revere and why?
 - o Josie wants to feel part of a community—what does it take to feel like you "belong," as if you "fit in"?
 - o Who is your favorite character? Why?
 - o Ty spends a lot of time in California because an aunt is ill. What does his attitude toward his aunt say about him?
 - o What do you think of Josie's relationship with Ty? How is it evolving?
 - o An ongoing theme in *Deadly Appraisal* is the impact of perception on our impressions of reality. What are your thoughts about perception vs. reality?
 - o Do you collect anything? If so, what and why?
 - o Are there any big life lessons in *Deadly Appraisal*? If so, what are they?
7. Continue your facilitation by noting any words you had to look up in the dictionary, facts that surprised you, and the like. For instance, did you know what a "catalogue raisonné" was?
8. Ask if anyone has any additional comments.
9. Take a digital photo of the group holding *Deadly Appraisal* and e-mail it to us for posting on the website!
10. Toast yourselves using Josie's dad's favorite toast: "To silver light in the dark of night."