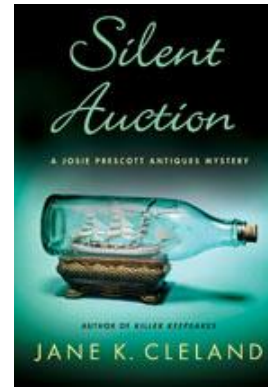


Discussion Questions for Book Clubs

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.



Silent Auction

1. Prepare Zoë's Lemon Drops for your guests:

Recipe —"Zoë's Lemon Drop"

- 1 ¼ oz vodka
 - ½ oz Triple Sec
 - ¾ oz freshly squeezed lemon juice
 - Twisted peel of lemon
- Pour all the ingredients into a cocktail shaker half-filled with ice and shake very, very well.
 - Pour the mixture into a chilled martini glass.
 - Garnish with a twisted lemon peel .



2. Toast one another with Josie's favorite toast, the one she learned from her dad: "Here's to silver light in the dark of night."
3. Read or reread the book.
4. When you're ready to begin, spend a few minutes explaining:
 - What you liked best about the book
 - Plot points that struck you as especially significant
 - Which character or characters were most intriguing
 - 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 *Silent Auction* by asking a series of open-ended questions such as:
 - What do you think about Frankie and Zoë's relationship?
 - Celebrating second chances is a uniquely American approach to failure. Have you ever had a second chance?
 - Were you familiar with scrimshaw before you read *Silent Auction*? Do you like scrimshaw? If so, why? If not, why not?
 - Josie refers to the gazebo in Rocky Point's central village green. Have you ever been to a summer concert where the band plays familiar tunes in a pretty gazebo? If so, what did you enjoy about it? (Or what didn't you enjoy?) If not, what do you think it would be like?
 - Josie's favorite music is Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. What's your favorite kind of music? What's your favorite piece of music? Why?
 - Chief Hunter moved to Rocky Point to see if Norman Rockwell had it right—he retired from the New York City police department and wanted to give small town living a try. What are the differences between small town and big city living?
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 that scrimshanders used candle black and soot to darken their etchings?
8. Ask if anyone has any additional comments.
9. Take a digital photo of the group holding *Silent Auction* and [e-mail it to us for posting on the website!](#)
10. Toast yourselves again using Josie's dad's favorite toast: "To silver light in the dark of night."