

The Thursday Murder Club

by Richard Osman

About the author:

Richard Osman is an author and television presenter. His novels, The Thursday Murder Club, The Man Who Died Twice, The Bullet That Missed, and The Last Devil to Die, were number one, million-copy international bestsellers as well as New York Times bestsellers. He lives in London with his wife, Ingrid, and Liesl the cat. We Solve Murders is his fifth novel. The movie adaptation for The Thursday Murder Club will start filming in 2024, produced by Amblin Entertainment.

Source: https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2201645/richard-osman/

About this book:

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders.

But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves.

Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

Source: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46000520-the-thursday-murder-club



Discussion Questions:

1. Favorite character? Favorite scene/chapter?

2. Which character needs the most therapy?

3. Though the book follows the four friends—Joyce, Elizabeth, Ibrahim, and Ron—solving the murder, the only first-person POV is Joyce's via her diary. What did you think of her diary entries? What, if anything, did they add to the story? Why do you think the author chose to show her perspective in such a way?

4. At the heart of this book is a 'warning never to underestimate the elderly.' Joyce even says, "I am very happy to be overlooked and always have been. And I do think perhaps that will be helpful in this investigation." Who misjudges the residents of Coopers Chase the most? What insights and advantages do they gain by not calling attention to themselves, and staying under the radar? What are the consequences of underestimating the four friends? What characteristics do a group of seniors have going for them that a younger group would not?

5. Bogdan's murder of Tony Curran sets the action in motion. But this wasn't the only murder and there were certainly plenty of other crimes and tragedies committed throughout the storyline of the book. What surprised, interested or confused you the most about the various murders and crimes?

6. The photograph left next to Tony's body is significant because it provides a possible clue to the motive behind the murder. The photograph depicts three men, Tony, Ron's son Jason, and a man named Bobby. Many readers have commented that they were confused by the purpose of the photo. When you read the novel, did you think, by any means, that they could be involved in the murder? Or, owing to reading murder mysteries, it was just another red herring?



7. The Garden of Eternal Rest and the idea of its demolition introduces new characters into the story, such as Father Matthew and Ian Ventham, who have conflicting interests. How does the conflict over the Garden of Eternal Rest add to the tension in the story?

8. Two murder plotlines occur in this book — the drug murder plotline with Tony, Gianni, Kazimir, and Bogdan with the clear motivation of revenge and the stabbing murder plotline with Annie, Peter, Penny, Ian, and John with no real motive. Elizabeth's confrontation with John and Penny highlights the theme of justice by showing the consequences of taking it into one's own hands. It raises questions about the morality of taking revenge and the impact it can have on both the victim and the perpetrator. Discuss in the context of the book. Do you think the actions of the people involved in both sets of murders were justified? How does it differ?

9. There is a tricky relationship which develops between the Murder Club and the police team of Donna and Chris. At times, Elizabeth manipulates both police officers, but at other times, there is a friendly give-and-take happening. What do you make of the relationship between the detectives and the septuagenarians? Do you think Donna was smart to stay in touch with them, even though it was unprofessional at times?

10. Do you think Elizabeth knows what Bogdan did and is pretending not to know? Why?

Source: Goodreads *(https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/22676379-the-thursday-murder-club-book-club-questions)*