

## **Book Club Questions for *Assault With a Deadly Glue Gun***

1. When the book opens, Anastasia has recently learned that her idyllic middle class suburban life has been a total lie. How does she deal with going from having a comfortable nest egg to being up to her eyeballs in debt? Are her reactions realistic to the situation in which she finds herself?
2. *Assault With a Deadly Glue Gun* is a humorous amateur sleuth mystery. *Publishers Weekly* compared Anastasia to Tina Fey's Liz Lemon from *30 Rock* in their starred review, and *Kirkus Reviews* called Anastasia, "North Jersey's more mature answer to Stephanie Plum." Did you enjoy the humor in the book? How do you feel about mixing murder and mirth?
3. When the book was first published, the publisher marketed it as a cozy mystery, which created backlash from a few more traditional cozy readers. Cozies are not supposed to use certain words. The author felt the book should have been marketed as an amateur sleuth mystery, not a cozy mystery, because she had employed dialogue appropriate to the characters. A mob loan shark, for instance, would not say, "Gosh darn it!" He'd use more colorful language. Did the use of those words bother you?
4. The author populates her book with some "over the top" characters (including the household pets), specifically for their comic appeal. Did these characters enhance your enjoyment of the book?
5. Did you find Anastasia's relationships with her family members and interactions with her coworkers realistic? Did these relationships add depth to the story?
6. Lucille, Anastasia's communist mother-in-law, is a polarizing character. Some readers love her; others would like to see her killed off. How do you feel about Lucille? Would it surprise you to learn that she's based on an actual person (the author's own communist mother-in-law)?
7. The Anastasia Pollack Crafting Mystery series is set in an actual New Jersey town and in New York City. Do you enjoy books set in real places or do you prefer imaginary locales?
8. Many crafting mysteries take place in or are centered round a crafter or craft shop. In the Anastasia Pollack Crafting Mysteries the author has switched things up and made her amateur sleuth the craft editor of a women's magazine. Did you enjoy this twist? How did the book's setting play a role in the mystery? Did you find the setting realistic?
9. The author sprinkled many clues to whodunit within the book but also inserted many red herrings. Did you pick up on the clues, or were you totally clueless?

Were you surprised to learn whodunit, or did you figure out who the killer was at some point within the book?

10. There were various twists and turns in the plot. Did they enhance the story for you? Did you find them plausible? What character or plot twist did you enjoy the most?

11. There are several subplots in the book. Subplots can relate to or be offshoots of the primary mystery, or they can be used to flesh out characters, create red herrings, lay the groundwork for future books in the series, or simply be used for comic relief. What were some of the subplots in *Assault With a Deadly Glue Gun*?

12. In real life most ordinary citizens don't get involved in solving murders. What motivates Anastasia to find the killer? Can you imagine any circumstance where you would try to solve a murder?

13. Agatha Christie didn't believe that murder and romance should converge in a book. How do you feel about romance in mysteries? Do you see a relationship developing between Anastasia and Zack in future books? Would you enjoy reading about such a relationship?

14. Did you enjoy the author's voice?

15. Was the book's conclusion satisfying? Did it make you want to read the next book in the series?