

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.



KILLER KEEPSAKES

Recipe— "Zoë's Apple Martini"



- ❖ 1 ½ oz vodka (from bottle kept in the freezer)
- ❖ ½ oz apple schnapps (from bottle kept in the freezer)
- ❖ ½ oz fresh lemon juice
- ❖ thin slices or wedges Granny Smith apple

- Fill a cocktail shaker half way with crushed ice. Add vodka, schnapps, and lemon juice.
 - Shake vigorously for several seconds.
 - Pour into previously frozen martini glass.
 - Place slice over the lip (cut half way into the apple slice so it balances properly) or slide wedge into the glass.
1. Josie sometimes enjoys flavored martinis. Her neighbor, landlady, friend, Zoë enjoys Apple Martinis!
Prepare Zoë's Apple Martinis for your guests (above).

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."
[\(Take a look at the gorgeous bookmark Bonny made for Jane!\)](#)
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 *Killer Keepsakes* by asking a series of open-ended questions such as:
 - Why is Gretchen, a young woman who likes celebrity gossip and always dresses stylishly, attracted to working in antiques businesses?
 - What about that celebrity gossip quirk? Do you know people who share Gretchen's interest? What about celebrity gossip appeals to people?
 - Are you a stylish dresser? Why or why not? When you shop for new clothes what's more important—style or comfort?
 - Gretchen and Lina love living in New Hampshire. What about it appeals to them?
 - Have you ever moved somewhere new, somewhere where you didn't know anyone? If so, what was the experience like?
 - Josie seems nostalgic for the Olson brothers, for the fly-boy ethos of a generation ago. What do you think appeals to her about that long-gone era?
 - What are you nostalgic about? What aspects of life that existed when you were young and are gone now do you miss?
 - What do you think of Mandy's relationship with Vince? How does it contrast with Josie's relationship with Ty?
 - Were there any big-picture issues in the book that resonated with you?
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 how professional photographers use cropping?
8. Ask if anyone has any additional comments.
9. Take a digital photo of the group holding *Killer Keepsakes* and [e-mail it to us at jane@janecleland.net](mailto:jane@janecleland.net) for posting on the website!
10. Toast yourselves using Josie's dad's favorite toast: "To silver light in the dark of night."

