



Address to Die For By Mary Feliz

Discussion questions for Book Groups

Talking about books with readers and writers is one of my favorite activities. Here are some questions I developed to spur discussions about *Address to Die For* among readers, libraries, and book groups.

1. After reading the book, what connections have you found to the title: *Address to Die For*?
2. Maggie is a newcomer to town, making her an outsider. What advantages might an outsider have in investigating a crime that a long-time resident might not? What problems might her outsider status cause?
3. Maggie is juggling all the details of the move to make the transition easier for her family. Have you moved often? With children? Or as a child? What strategies made it easier or more difficult?
4. Maggie forms some knee-jerk impressions of her neighbors when she first meets them. Are first-impressions important? How can they be misleading? How is the first impression you make different from the person you really are or the person you would like others to see?
5. One of the most controversial aspects of this book has been Max's absence, although frequent trips to Europe or Asia are typical of a Silicon Valley engineer's job. As a newcomer to a job, is it hard to say no to travel requests? Did Max's absence bother you? What did it make you think about him, Maggie, and their marriage?

6. Silicon Valley public schools gave up buses during a time of budget crunches in the 1970s. There is frequently talk of restoring them, for environmental reasons and to alleviate the area's persistent traffic problems. Many working parents cherish their time with their children in the car as they drop them at school before work. In what ways did scenes in the car help or hinder the plot? Did you find them plausible?
7. Many cozy mystery readers have strict ideas about what should and should not be included in a cozy mystery. Did this book meet your expectations of a "cozy" read? How did it differ from other cozies?
8. Have you read other books in the series? If so, did you read them in order? Would you recommend others read them in order? How did the book compare to others in the series?
9. Unlike many mystery heroines, Maggie is happily married to Max. How does their relationship enhance or detract from your overall enjoyment of the mystery and the series?
10. Would you say the book is character-driven or plot-driven or both? Do you have a preference for one or the other in the books you choose to read?
11. Setting is often an important element in cozy mysteries. How do you think the California/Silicon Valley setting contributes to the story? Can you imagine the story unfolding anywhere else? How is the author's portrayal of the area different from what you imagine California to be like or how it is portrayed in movies and on television?
12. Many people (let's call them literature snobs) don't feel that genre fiction or popular fiction measure up to what's typically referred to as "literary" fiction. How do you think this book departs from traditional literary fiction? What characteristics do they share? Do you have a preference?
13. What other aspects of the book were important to you? Would you choose to read another book by the same author? Another book in the same genre?