



## Disorderly Conduct 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 *Disorderly Conduct* for readers, libraries, and book groups. Feel free to change and adapt them for use with the other books.

1. After reading the book, what connections have you found to the title: *Disorderly Conduct*?
2. The book opens with great urgency as Maggie is packing up her family to evacuate from a wildfire. What items are the first ones you'd grab in an emergency?
3. Preparing to evacuate ahead of an approaching wildfire is much like preparing for any natural disaster. What kinds of disasters have you lived through? What preparations do you make for emergencies?
4. Maggie must choose between her own emergency preparations and helping Tess with her crisis. Max makes the choice easy for her by picking up the slack at home. Do you think she made the right decision? Why or why not?
5. I debated including the detail about Maggie and Tess's reaction to hearing an inappropriate song (or perhaps TOO appropriate) when they visited the funeral home. I feared some people might find it insensitive. Yet, it mirrors an experience my mother and I had following my own father's death. Did the

scene bother you? What other popular songs would you consider inappropriate hold music for hospice, hospital, funeral home, or emergency services?

6. 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?
7. 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?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. 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?
11. 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?
12. 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?