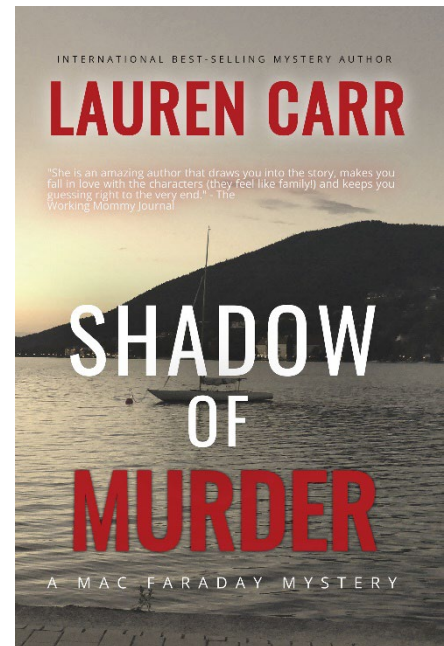


Shadow of Murder Book Club Guide

Lauren invites you to discuss this latest installment in the Mac Faraday Mysteries at your next book club meeting. Below is a list of questions to get your club started.

1. How did you experience *Shadow of Murder*? Were you engaged in the mystery of Konnor Langston's disappearance and the discovery of her body, or did it take you a while to "get into it"?
2. Describe each of the main characters' traits—Mac, Erica, Dusty, and Archie—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities and how those traits contribute to the relationships they develop over the course of the book.
3. How important is the premise of Erica Hart being widowed recently and returning to Spencer to start a new chapter to her character and the mystery? Would her character have worked as well if she were divorced?
4. Like Erica, Dusty O'Meara is widowed. We learn that his late wife was his first love, and they had a long happy marriage. With this in mind, do you think it is unrealistic for his and Erica's relationship to develop the way it did?
5. This is a Mac Faraday Mystery, but two new characters, Erica Hart and Dusty O'Meara play a prominent role in *Shadow of Murder*. In your opinion, could Dusty and Erica have solved the mystery of Konnor Langston's and Stanley Trevor's murders without Mac Faraday?
6. When Erica Hart returns to town, she immediately rekindles her friendship with her childhood friends, Britney Turner and Jayne Romano, a.k.a. The Nancy Drew Crew. Do you feel they played a valuable role in the plotline and solving the mystery? Did they contribute or take away from the story?
7. Did you lose respect for Britney when it was revealed that she was involved with Paul Rosenthal, a federal agent working undercover? Like her friends, do you think her quest for finding information on Marissa Bloomberg was primarily motivated by jealousy?



8. Detectives suspect Stanley Trevor's murder is connected to a church audit, with the motive being to conceal embezzlement of funds. In recent years, too often, Christian organizations and leaders of these organization are depicted a hypocrites or religious fanatics. Was the author successful in creating realistic, flawed characters connected with the church, while not painting the church itself in a negative light?
9. Wicca, witchcraft, and demons, oh my! In *Shadow of Murder*, Laura Carr introduces witchcraft and demonology to the plot, when it is revealed that two suspects had experimented with a book of shadows to cast spells against their enemies. With this, the plotline takes a slight curve into the paranormal. How do you feel about this? Do you like a touch of paranormal to your murder mysteries, or should murder mysteries stay away from paranormal.
10. We can't forget about Teddy. When we first meet Teddy, he saves Erica's and Wentworth's lives. Reverend Deborah suggests that Teddy could have played a role as Erica's guardian angel.
Do you think it is possible for animals to be angels on Earth? Have you heard of any circumstances where a pet has done something miraculous to save its human? Would you want to own a Teddy, who sounds reveille at the crack of dawn?
11. Lauren Carr provided a boatload of red herrings! How effective were the plot twists and herrings to your enjoyment of the mystery?
12. Lauren Carr provides a cast of characters at the front of her books. How effective was this in reading *Shadow of Murder*? Did you have to refer to it often, or was each character distinctive enough for you to keep them straight?

Feel free to visit Lauren's book club page on [her website](#) to download and print a copy for your group.

Want to add some excitement to your next book club meeting? Are you curious about the inspiration for Mac Faraday? And what about Gnarly? What does Lauren have planned next for the Mac Faraday Mysteries?

Now is your chance to ask this international best-selling mystery writer, in person, you and your book club. That's right. Lauren Carr is available to personally meet with your book club to discuss *Shadow of Murder* or any of her best-selling mystery novels.

Don't worry if your club is meeting on the other side of the continent. Lauren can pop in to answer your questions via webcam. But, if your club is close enough, Lauren would love to personally meet with your group.

