

A BUSY NEST NEWS BOOK CLUB KIT BASED ON
THE BESTSELLING NOVEL BY GRADY HENDRIX

The

**Southern
Book Club's
Guide to Slaying
Vampires**



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Book Club Discussion Tips



1. Look over all of the materials in this kit before your meeting. If a tip or question isn't quite right for your group, you can tweak it to fit better. Remember to print any extra pages you might want to share with the group.
2. Don't share the questions with group members before the meeting, but do have your own answers in mind. You'll be better prepared to guide the discussion, anticipate potential triggers or points of contention, and give the group a nudge if they get stuck. Make note of any questions you definitely want to cover, and which you'd be willing to skip to save time.
3. Allow everyone time to settle in before beginning the discussion in earnest. This will help to keep the conversation focused later. We recommend about 30 minutes of "catching up" time before starting the discussion, but do what's best for your group.
4. Summarize with the group what was in the book. People have lots of things going on and may have forgotten what they read, might already be reading the next book, or they've yet to finish this one. A quick recap will ensure you're all on the same page.
5. Make sure everyone has a chance to be heard. Don't force anyone to share, but make space for multiple people to answer any given question, and discourage judgement.
6. Provide a fun treat to go with the book (or ask a fellow reader to bring one). It could be an old crowd-pleaser (pizza) or something thematic. See our suggestions below for more fun.

Excellent Ideas for This Book:

- **Dress to impress!** Have everyone dress as their favorite character from the book, in their best busy housewife, self-important husband, or grumpy teen look from the 80s or 90s. Chunky jewelry and tea-length dresses encouraged.
- **Did someone say "potluck?"** Bring your casserole, Jell-o, or cocktail A-game! (Hint: check your local library or thrift stores for old cookbooks with party recipes.) If you do the potluck virtually, create a thread on Facebook or a shared Google doc where everyone can contribute the recipe they would have brought in person.
- **Show you care with a mixtape!** Craft a playlist based on this book and share it with your group. If you're meeting in person, play it in the background to set the mood (bonus points if you get it on a cassette somehow). If you're meeting virtually, share through a music app or write up a list- have your group add their suggestions to make it extra special.

Your Bestselling True Crime Novel Title Generator

BY BUSY NEST NEWS | BUSYNESTNEWS.COM

First Letter of Your First Name

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| A. Slaying | J. Original | S. Unspeakable |
| B. The Want-Ad | K. The Devil | T. Rose |
| C. Deadly | L. True | U. Death |
| D. Cold | M. Crime | V. Bitter |
| E. Lost | N. Sinful | W. Wicked |
| F. The Stranger | O. Midnight | X. Obsessed |
| G. The Uncharted | P. Open | Y. Stricken |
| H. Secret | Q. Trial | Z. Unknown |
| I. Shameful | R. Executioner | |

Day You Were Born

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. In the Suburbs | 11. In the Sun | 21. Clues |
| 2. Killer | 12. Code | 22. Calls |
| 3. Seduction | 13. Game | 23. Pain |
| 4. Blood | 14. Gambit | 24. Discovery |
| 5. Girls | 15. By Mail | 25. Murder |
| 6. Within | 16. Desires | 26. Lives |
| 7. Innocence | 17. Hunger | 27. By Powerpoint |
| 8. In the Country | 18. Trade | 28. With a Frying Pan |
| 9. Under the Moon | 19. Pride | 29. Language |
| 10. In the City | 20. Hints | 30. On Halloween |
| | | 31. Inheritance |

Month You Were Born

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| January- The Uncrackable Case | July- A Tale of Evil |
| February- An American Mystery | August- A Modern Memoir |
| March- A Family Tragedy | September- A Year on the Streets |
| April- A Southern Drama | October- Money, Mansions, and Madness |
| May- A Desert Legend | November- A Love Triangle, Gone Wrong |
| June- The Shocking, True Story | December- Lovers, Larceny, and Lies |

Discussion Questions



1. Do you think you would notice the warning signs if someone dangerous moved into your neighborhood?
2. How would you go about getting others to believe you?
3. What else could Patricia have done to advocate for the black children?
4. Which member of the book club do you most relate to?
5. Which character do you wish you were more like?
6. Were you surprised when Grace eventually came to help clean up?
7. Whose acts of violence did you find more disturbing: James Harris, the club members' husbands, or the police?
8. What was James Harris' most terrifying trick?
9. Why were the men so susceptible to James Harris' charms?
10. Why does Patricia always refer to James Harris by his full name, even as others transitioned to nicknames?
11. Was Patricia obsessive, crazy, or just committed to protecting her family?
12. Does Patricia's explanation about the pills- that she wasn't trying to kill herself, but she just wanted to take them all- make sense to you?
13. At what point did you start hating Carter?
14. If Grace were to leave her husband, how much would he have to pay someone to maintain his standard of living?
15. Would the men notice if their wives stopped doing whatever they do all day?
16. Do you buy James Harris' explanation that he was trying to set down roots before modern technology made it impossible for him to insinuate himself into new communities? Does our current tech make it easier or harder for someone to do what James Harris does? Would he have been content in one place?
17. Were you surprised that Patricia's children chose to stay with her?
18. In a premium television production of this book, who would you cast as the main characters?
19. What 80s & 90s songs should be playing during key scenes?
20. Weigh in; frozen sandwiches: disgusting, or brilliant life hack?