

Jane Cleland Cocktail Recipes and Book Club Discussion Questions

Toast yourselves using Josie's dad's favorite toast: "To silver light in the dark of night."

CONSIGNED TO DEATH (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #1)

In *Consigned to Death*, Josie drinks Bombay Sapphire on the rocks with a twist.

Recipe: On the Rocks

Pour Bombay Sapphire gin, kept in the freezer, over ice in a pretty rocks glass. Add a lemon twist... take a lemon and pound it on the counter a few times to "loosen the juice." Using a sharp knife, cut into the peel just deep enough to pierce the skin, but not the fruit, and draw the blade down from end to end. Starting at the same point and ending at the same point, draw the blade down again at a slight arc. Remove the cut out piece. You'll be holding a 1/8" sliver of lemon peel. Twist the piece into a spiral, drop into the gin, and swirl.

Questions:

1. What do you think of Josie's relationship with her parents?
2. What do you think of Josie's relationship with her parents?
3. One book club attendee mentioned that reading about Josie's dad's advice made her think about how she spoke to her own children. What are your thoughts on this subject—the power of words?
4. Would Josie be stronger if she had to deal with things on her own, without being able to call on her father's sayings—or do you think she's lucky to have that legacy?
5. Who is your favorite character? Why?
6. What do you think of Josie's relationship with Ty?
7. What does Josie look like?
8. Do you like antiques? If so, what kinds?
9. Which aspects of Josie's business were most interesting to you to learn about?
10. Which aspects of Josie's business were most interesting to you to learn about?

DEADLY APPRAISAL (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #2)

Josie sometimes enjoys martinis straight up with a twist.

Recipe: A Little Lift

Pour two shot glasses worth of Bombay Sapphire gin into a cocktail shaker two thirds full of ice. Add a cap-full of dry vermouth. Squeeze a lemon wedge worth of juice into the shaker. Shake well. Pour the mixture through the strainer into your frozen glass. (Keep your martini glasses in the freezer.)

Add a lemon twist... take a lemon and pound it on the counter a few times to "loosen the juice." Using a sharp knife, cut into the peel just deep enough to pierce the skin, but not the fruit, and draw the blade down from end to end. Starting at the same point and ending at the same point, draw the blade down

again at a slight arc. Remove the cut out piece. You'll be holding a 1/8" sliver of lemon peel. Twist the piece into a spiral, drop into the gin, and swirl.

Questions:

1. Why are whistle blowers so hated?
2. Josie reveres her father. Whom do you revere and why?
3. Josie wants to feel part of a community—what does it take to feel like you “belong,” as if you “fit in”?
4. Who is your favorite character? Why?
5. Ty spends a lot of time in California because an aunt is ill. What does his attitude toward his aunt say about him?
6. What do you think of Josie’s relationship with Ty? How is it evolving?
7. An ongoing theme in Deadly Appraisal is the impact of perception on our impressions of reality. What are your thoughts about perception vs. reality?
8. Do you collect anything? If so, what and why?
9. Are there any big life lessons in Deadly Appraisal? If so, what are they?

ANTIQUES TO DIE FOR (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #3)

Josie sometimes enjoys flavored martinis. Guavatini are among her favorites!

Recipe: Guavatini

Mix four parts guava nectar with one part vodka.

Stir. Serve. Sip. Ah!

Questions:

1. Rosalie was a communications expert and a historian. Do you enjoy history? What period? What, specifically, interests you?
2. Josie’s mother died when she was thirteen. The last member of Paige’s immediate family is killed when she’s twelve. Can you imagine what either of those circumstances would be like? How would you cope?
3. Josie’s mother died when she was thirteen. The last member of Paige’s immediate family is killed when she’s twelve. Can you imagine what either of those circumstances would be like? How would you cope?
4. Who is your favorite character? Why?
5. Ty accepts a new job. What do you think of this decision-making style?
6. What do you think of Josie’s relationship with Ty? How is it evolving?
7. An ongoing theme in Antiques to Die For is the importance of community and being accepted. What are your thoughts about fitting in?
8. Do you collect anything? If so, what and why?
9. Are there any big life lessons in Antiques to Die For? If so, what are they?

KILLER KEEPSAKES (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #4)

Josie sometimes enjoys flavored martinis. Her neighbor, landlady, friend, Zoë enjoys Apple Martinis!

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
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- 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.

Questions:

1. Why is Gretchen, a young woman who likes celebrity gossip and always dresses stylishly, attracted to working in antiques businesses?
2. What about that celebrity gossip quirk? Do you know people who share Gretchen's interest? What about celebrity gossip appeals to people?
3. Are you a stylish dresser? Why or why not? When you shop for new clothes what's more important—style or comfort?
4. Gretchen and Lina love living in New Hampshire. What about it appeals to them?
5. Have you ever moved somewhere new, somewhere where you didn't know anyone? If so, what was the experience like?
6. 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?
7. What are you nostalgic about? What aspects of life that existed when you were young and are gone now do you miss?
8. What do you think of Mandy's relationship with Vince? How does it contrast with Josie's relationship with Ty?
9. Were there any big-picture issues in the book that resonated with you?

SILENT AUCTION (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #5)

Recipe: Zoë's Lemon Drop

- 1 ¼ oz vodka
- ½ oz Triple Sec
- ¾ oz freshly squeezed lemon juice

- Twisted peel of lemon
- Pour all the ingredients into a cocktail shaker half-filled with ice and shake very, very well.
- Pour the mixture into a chilled martini glass.
- Garnish with a twisted lemon peel.

Questions:

1. What do you think about Frankie and Zoë's relationship?
2. Celebrating second chances is a uniquely American approach to failure. Have you ever had a second chance?
3. Were you familiar with scrimshaw before you read *Silent Auction*? Do you like scrimshaw? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Josie refers to the gazebo in Rocky Point's central village green. Have you ever been to a summer concert where the band plays familiar tunes in a pretty gazebo? If so, what did you enjoy about it? (Or what didn't you enjoy?) If not, what do you think it would be like?
5. Josie's favorite music is Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. What's your favorite kind of music? What's your favorite piece of music? Why?
6. Chief Hunter moved to Rocky Point to see if Norman Rockwell had it right—he retired from the New York City police department and wanted to give small town living a try. What are the differences between small town and big city living?

DOLLED UP FOR MURDER (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #7)

Recipe: Josie's Blue Martini

- Place ingredients in a cocktail shaker
 - 1 1/2 oz. light rum (from bottle kept in freezer)
 - 1 1/2 oz. Blue Curacao
 - 3 oz pineapple juice
- Add a few ice cubes
- Shake vigorously for a few seconds
- Pour into previously frozen martini glasses
- Add pineapple chunk or lemon twist, if desired

Questions:

1. Did you play with dolls when you were young? If so, which one was your favorite? Why?
2. What do you think of Hank? Do you have a pet who's your confidant?
3. Josie buys a doll collection from two sisters whose mother has just died. Have you ever had to clean out a house after someone you love has died? What was the hardest part for you?
4. Do you collect any antiques? If so, what? Why?

A LETHAL TREASURE (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #8)

Recipe: Josie's French Martini

- Place ingredients in a cocktail shaker
 - 1 ½ ounces vodka
 - 2 ounce pineapple juice
 - ½ ounce raspberry liquor (like Chambord)
 - Ice
 - Fresh raspberries for garnish
- Mix all ingredients in shaker.
- Shake well.
- Strain and pour into a Martini glass.
- Drop in a raspberry or two.

Questions:

1. In Lethal Treasure, the hidden message Josie finds in the silent movie posters is, essentially, a love note. What's the most unusual love note you ever received?
2. Why might people abandon a storage locker?
3. Have you got back with someone after a break up? What was it like?
4. How do you feel about getting older?

BLOOD RUBIES (JOSIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #9)

Recipe: Josie's Watermelon Martini

- Place ingredients in a cocktail shaker
 - 2 oz watermelon juice
 - 1oz vodka
 - 1 oz Limoncello
 - 1/2 oz freshly squeezed lime juice
- Shake, strain, and enjoy!

Questions:

1. Think about the objects in your house. Which one is most significant? Why?
2. If money were no object and if every art object were for sale, which one would you buy? Why?
3. Fabergé eggs contain surprises. Do you like surprises?
4. What's the appeal of snow globes?
5. Ty is proud of Josie's success. In today's world, do you think most men are proud of their partners' success?
6. What do you like best about Rocky Point, New Hampshire?

ORNAMENTS OF DEATH (JODIE PRESCOTT ANTIQUES MYSTERY #10)

Recipe: Josie's Prescott Punch

- For each serving, stir together:
 - 1.5 oz freezer-cold vodka
 - 1.5 oz refrigerator-cold ginger ale
 - 1 oz. refrigerator-cold cranberry juice
- After chilling, pour into a martini glass and garnish with a sprig of mint.

Questions:

1. In *Ornaments of Death*, one of the characters got into genealogy after he retired. Are you interested in genealogy? If so, why? What do you hope to discover? If not, why not?
2. Seventeenth-century miniature watercolor portraits were often the size of a postage stamp. Why would artists work in such a small format?
3. Look at the cover art. Can you recognize Arabella Churchill and King James II? Who else is portrayed on the ornaments? (Hint: Think of the characters in the book.)
4. What do you think of Josie's relationship to Hank?
5. What's your favorite holiday tradition?
6. Becca, who did not grow up on the shore, knew early on that she wanted to be a marine biologist. Have you ever done anything unexpected?