

BOOK CLUB GUIDE



LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR



Dear Book Club Coordinator,

Thank you so much for considering *The Metropolitan Affair* for your group! This story will take you into 1920s Manhattan during Egyptomania, the craze for all things Egypt, inspired by what was then the recent opening of King Tut's tomb. But the novel is about so much more than ancient artifacts, forgeries, and Prohibition.

This is a tale of belonging, betrayal, secrets and revelations, and a quest for a love that is genuine. There's a second-chance romance tucked within these pages, but the plot pivots around a grown-up daughter still trying to win her father's approval.

If you're looking for discussion questions, you'll find those in this guide and in the back of the novel. If you'd like me to join you and your book club for a more personalized Q&A, I'd be thrilled to do that. You can request a teleconference on the An Open Book website here:
<https://www.bethanyhouseopenbook.com/author-teleconference-request>

Keep reading for novel-inspired book club menus, a matching game, and a behind-the-scenes backstory on three different Egyptian artifacts that appear in the book!

Warmly,

Jocelyn

Jocelyn Green

<https://www.jocelyngreen.com/>



BOOK CLUB

MENU INSPIRATIONS

JOE'S SUGGESTION

In honor of Ferrara's, his favorite bakery in Little Italy (still in business today), get yourself some cannoli and coffee! For this German Italian cop, there is no better combination.

Take a look at how Ferrara makes their cannoli here:
<https://youtu.be/xwCYk9oAutw>



LAUREN'S SUGGESTION

Draw inspiration from the afternoon tea menu served in the Plaza Hotel's Palm Court!



Ready to enjoy some delicious research, aka tea, at the Plaza Hotel's Palm Court with my dear friend Mindelynn on the left. Recognize her name from the dedication page of *The Metropolitan Affair*? Good eye! She's the one!

THE PLAZA SIGNATURE TEA

SANDWICHES & SAVORIES

Applewood Smoked Pearl Salmon
Dill Crème Fraîche, Pickled Shallot, Trout Caviar, Affilla Cress, Brioche

English Cucumber
Labneh With Mint, Lemon Zest, Tarragon, Pickled Mustard Seeds, White

Honey Ricotta
Pesto, Baby Kale, Walnut, Rye

Beef Pastrami
Cambozola Cream, Dijon Mustard, Murray's Aged Cheddar Cheese, Whole Wheat

Foie Gras Macaron
Foie Mousse, Truffle Kewpie Mayo, Caviar

SCONES

Freshly Baked Warm Cherry & Truffle Scones
Devonshire Cream, Yuzu & Basil Curd, House-Made Strawberry & Rhubarb Preserves

PASTRIES & SWEETS

Lavender Macaron
Lavender White Chocolate Ganache, Blackcurrant Pearls

Strawberry & Cream Delice
Strawberry & Fromage Blanc Mousseline, Strawberry & Rhubarb Compôte

Pistachio Dacquoise Cake

Lemon Verbena Egg Custard
Rooibos des Vahinés Tea Jelly, Almond Pain De Gene Cake, Preserved Apricot

Chocolate Manjari Black Forest Sable
Dark Chocolate Cherry Custard, Preserved Sour Cherry, Tahitian Vanilla Cream

Passion Fruit & Banana Crémeux
Banana & Passion Fruit Cream, Green Tea Coconut Shortbread, Passion Fruit Pearls

NAME THAT LANDMARK!

Many of the scenes in *The Metropolitan Affair* are set at iconic Manhattan locations you can still visit today. Try to match these images of famous landmarks with their names! (Answers on the next page.)

OPTIONS:

Vanderbilt Hall at Grand Central Terminal | Plaza Hotel | New York Public Library | Old Police Headquarters | Central Park | The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



ANSWERS TO "NAME THAT LANDMARK!"

1.

A photograph showing the interior of the New York Public Library, featuring a large, ornate reading room with high ceilings, arched windows, and rows of study tables.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2.

A photograph of Central Park in New York City, showing a large body of water (the Reservoir) surrounded by lush green trees and a path.

CENTRAL
PARK

3.

A photograph of the exterior of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, showing its grand neoclassical facade with columns and a large set of steps.

THE METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM OF ART

4.

A photograph of the exterior of The Plaza Hotel, a tall, ornate building with a prominent corner tower.

THE PLAZA
HOTEL

5.

A photograph of the interior of Grand Central Terminal, showing the grand Vanderbilt Hall with its high, vaulted ceiling and classical architecture.

VANDERBILT HALL AT
GRAND CENTRAL
TERMINAL

6.

A photograph of the exterior of the Old Police Headquarters, a large, classical building with a prominent dome and ornate facade.

OLD POLICE
HEADQUARTERS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Lauren craves peace and hates conflict. Do you relate to this, or are you more like Joe, who's willing to confront in order to have justice?

2. Lawrence had a pattern of running to Egypt and ignoring the hard realities in his personal life. In what ways do people commonly try to run from problems today, even if they don't leave home?

3. In chapter 6, Lauren tells Joe, "The fact that the Egyptians believed in many things to save and protect them doesn't really set them apart from our culture today." What do you think our culture believes will bring happiness and protection from discomfort? What happens when we put all our trust in those things?





4. In chapter 9, Lauren notes that seeking affirmation is exhausting. Why do you think it's so tiring to pursue affirmation?

5. In chapter 11, we read that Lauren craved her father's approval, if she could not have his love. Even as an adult, how has your relationship with your parents affected your choices?

6. A recurring theme in the story is that people see what they want to see. When have you noticed this happening in your own life or with people around you?

7. Lauren longed for a restored relationship with her father, but as Greta told her, he wasn't doing his part. Have you ever had to set aside a relationship because it was harmful to you?





8. Near the end of the book, Lauren tells her audience in the lecture hall, “If you become an expert on the real thing, you’ll know the counterfeit when you see it.” In what ways can we apply this to different areas of our own lives?

9. Compare the Lauren at the end of the book to the Lauren from the beginning. In what ways has she changed? What has she lost, and what has she gained?

10. In what ways has God brought new, good things out of areas of your own life that you had previously considered a wasteland?



BEHIND THE SCENES

AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Many of the Egyptian artifacts referenced in the novel were inspired by real artifacts. I encourage you to visit [MetMuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org) and search for any that especially interest you. Here are three short videos featuring pieces mentioned in my book:

Pectoral Necklace: <https://youtu.be/j9gDsCOVab8>

William the Hippo: https://youtu.be/uLjvEsHi_qU

The Tomb of Perneb: <https://youtu.be/Zou4hzeUOLg>



Giddy with research gold procured from the grand museum behind me!

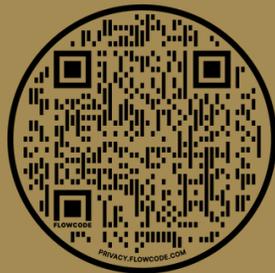
Pro style tip: fit in with the locals by wearing tennis shoes with any outfit for all-day, nonblistering pavement-pounding.

AN OPEN BOOK

Do you lead a book club? Register for An Open Book program and get book recommendations, exclusive discussion guides, author Q&As, giveaways, printable extras, and other fabulous book club resources!

Sign up here:

<https://www.bethanyhouseopenbook.com/register-your-book-club>



SCAN HERE

Sign Up for
An Open Book

