

The Deadly Spark

Book Club Questions

Both Eve and Anya struggle with strong feelings of guilt: Eve for Frankie, and Anya for Sylvie and Lisette. Do you feel their guilt is justified or not, and why? Do you empathise with both of these characters, or one more than the other?

The Deadly Spark features strong female leads and a diverse cast of characters in terms of race, sexuality and multiple regional accents. How important do you think this is in modern crime fiction, and do you think the author achieved this successfully?

How do you think the lives of Eve and Anya panned out after the story finished?

How do you feel about the final twist? Did you suspect Anya all along or was it a surprise? Does it affect how much you liked or disliked her as a person?

Did you guess Jason's true colours before they were revealed, or was it a gasp out loud moment for you? If you guessed it, what gave the game away? If you didn't, who did you think it was and why?

Do you think Eve Starling makes a good detective? Could you see her rising through the ranks and taking over Gillian's job one day? If not, who in the team do you think is the strongest candidate?

How do you think Eve's parents' treatment of their children, and ultimately Frankie's death, moulded Eve into the person she is today?

What was your favourite / the most satisfying scene from the book? And in contrast, which scene did you find the most difficult / upsetting to read, and why?

The Deadly Spark uses a lot of flashbacks, as well as a dual narrative. How did you find it to follow, and did you enjoy it?

What do the settings of Brighton and Plockton, and the distance between them, bring to the story? Do you feel the story would be a different experience if it was set elsewhere?

Who were your favourite and least favourite characters, and what did you like and dislike about them?

Prologues: love them or hate them, they're everywhere. Do you like prologues in general? Did you like the prologue for The Deadly Spark, or do you think the novel would have been improved without it, and why?

The Deadly Spark is a blend of police procedural and psychological suspense. How do you feel about this blending of genres? Do you think one genre within the book worked better than the other, or do you think there was a good balance?