



Cliff Hanger By Mary Feliz

Discussion questions for Book Groups

Talking about books with readers and writers is one of my favorite activities. Here are some questions I developed to spur discussions about *Cliff Hanger* among readers, libraries, and book groups.

1. After reading the book, what connections have you found to the title: *Cliff Hanger*?
2. Maggie is a visitor to Heron Beach, making her an outsider. What advantages might an outsider have in investigating a crime that a long-time resident might not? What problems might her outsider status cause?
3. *Cliff Hanger* takes place on the shores of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. What elements of the setting enhance or detract from the story? Is Heron Beach a place you might like to visit?
4. Maggie forms some knee-jerk impressions of her neighbors when she first meets them. Are first-impressions important? How can they be misleading? How is the first impression you make different from the person you really are or the person you would like others to see?
5. Many cozy mystery readers have strict ideas about what should and should not be included in a cozy mystery. Did this book meet your expectations of a “cozy” read? How did it differ from other cozies?
6. Have you read other books in the series? If so, did you read them in order? Would you recommend others read them in order? How did the book compare to others in the series?

7. Unlike many mystery heroines, Maggie is happily married to Max. How does their relationship enhance or detract from your overall enjoyment of the mystery and the series?
8. Would you say the book is character-driven or plot-driven or both? Do you prefer one or the other in the books you choose to read?
9. How is the author's portrayal of the area different from what you imagine California to be like or how it is portrayed in movies and on television?
10. Many people (let's call them literature snobs) don't feel that genre fiction or popular fiction measure up to what's typically referred to as "literary" fiction. How do you think this book departs from traditional literary fiction? What characteristics do they share? Do you have a preference?
11. What other aspects of the book were important to you? Would you choose to read another book by the same author? Another book in the same genre?

Thank you so very much for choosing this book. If you enjoyed it, please check out the other books in the series and consider leaving a review on Amazon.

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