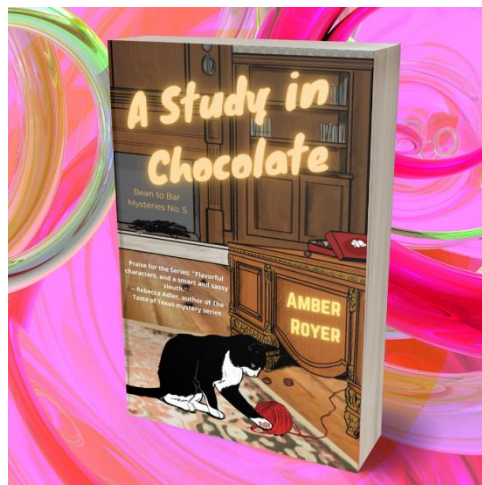


Discussion Guide: A Study in Chocolate

1. How do you feel about books that make references to other books? Or that compares the protagonist to standards of the genre? The killer in this book is obsessed with Sherlock Holmes. Why do you think Holmes is one of the best loved fictional detectives of all time, despite not being personally loveable?
2. In a lot of ways, this book flips the dynamic that Felicity had with both Logan and Arlo in the first book. How is she empowered by this? How does the book avoid lessening Arlo or Logan while allowing Felicity new levels of competence?
3. Felicity befriends people who don't necessarily follow the rules – or who have broken the law in their pasts. How does she seem to reconcile this with her need to be a rule follower? How has she changed since the first book, that allows her to do this?
4. This book draws inspiration from *A Study in Scarlet*. In what ways does the case in the book echo the case in the Holmes story? What are the biggest differences?
5. How does the mystery in the house's past play into the mystery in the present? Does this allow the house to become almost another character in the story? Do you like historic homes? What is the value of preserving/visiting them? Or do they impede progress?
6. Have you ever interacted with an emotional support animal? If you needed an emotional support animal, what kind of animal would you most likely choose? What does it say about Gently that he chose an emotional support cat? How does Ruffles compare with Knightley the Bunny, Clive the Octopus, Satchmo the Therapy Dog and Renoir the Cockatoo (introduced in previous books in the series)? How is his role in this book different than these other animal companions?
7. Felicity is working to expand the scope of her small business by partnering with Enrique. Do you think it takes courage to open a business? If you decided to start a new business, what kind of products/services would you offer?
8. How does it expand your understanding of Felicity to have her parents show up in this book? Would you respond more like her mom did or her dad did if someone in your life suddenly started solving real-life mysteries? How is Felicity like her mom and her aunt?



9. At what point did you think you knew the outcome of the mystery? Were you right or wrong? If you guessed right, were you right about WHY the murder was committed? Were there any particular plot twists you enjoyed?
10. There's a lot of food mentioned in this book. Did any of it make you hungry? Anything from Enrique's pop-ups? Anything Carmen bakes at Felicity's shop? What do you think of Carmen's cookbook? How do you feel about the increased options for people who want to enjoy chocolate while following a gluten free or calorie-limiting diet?