

Discussion Guide: A Shot in the 80% Dark

1. How do you feel that 3-D Printing will impact the future of food? Does this make programmers and food scientists into chefs and artists?
2. Why doesn't Felicity acknowledge what she does as art? Do you agree that it is? Why is it important for her to acknowledge her creativity? Do you make art? Do you have a favorite artist? Who and why?
3. How are Felicity's relationships with other people continuing to change? Do you feel that she is learning not to underestimate people?
4. This book draws some of its influence from *Treasure Island*, but it acknowledges historical pirates and literary pirates were very different. Why are pirates so often romanticized? Why are films like *Goonies* still so appealing?
5. Did you feel that Flint was more complex than he seemed at first? Did you feel more empathy for him as the story unfolded – or did you find him more monstrous?
6. Have you ever interacted with a cockatoo or other bird in the parrot family? Or seen an animal "artist" at work? How does Renoir compare with Knightley the bunny, and Clive the Octopus and Satchmo the Therapy Dog (introduced in previous books in the series)? How is his role in this book different than these other animal companions?
7. Felicity is concerned about the impact events in this book are having on her small business. Why do you think so many small businesses do not succeed? If you decided to start a new business, what kind of products/services would you offer?
8. Have you ever been scuba diving? Was it exciting or intimidating? Where was the most exciting place you've ever dived/snorkeled? Or do you prefer places away from the ocean?
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? Would you try the fusion flavors Carmen and Tam Binh are cooking up, or other fusions, such as the Cajun Ruben? Anything Carmen bakes at Felicity's shop?

