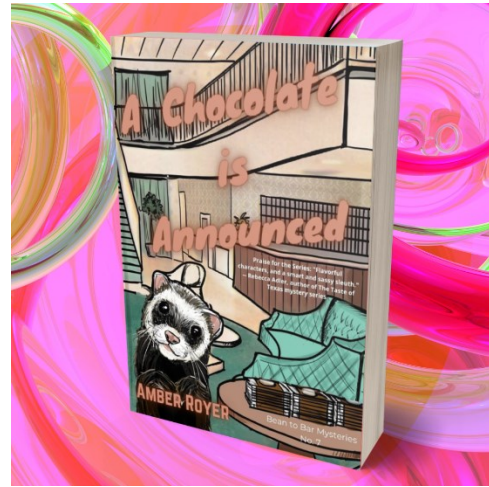


Discussion Guide: A Chocolate is Announced

1. How do you feel about books that riff on the classics? Or that use titles that are plays on classic titles? *A Chocolate is Announced* plays on Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* in several ways. What connections do you see here to Christie and other standards of the mystery genre?
2. The book the killer gives Felicity is *Frankenstein*. How does this play into that person's views of morality, society and what makes a monster? How do the other characters feel?
3. This book introduces Logan's sister and her husband. How does the relationship between those two mirror the relationship between Felicity and Logan? How does Dawn and Fisher's relationship contrast that of Felicity and Logan?
4. Felicity has experienced grief in her personal life. How does this affect her ability to deal with the grief expressed in this book by others? How are some characters grieving for intangible losses?
5. Sometimes secondary characters steal the show. Fan favorites in this series include both Autumn and Ash. How do you feel about the sense of community that comes from recurring cameos and larger appearances from friends and relatives of the protagonist in this and other cozy mystery series?
6. Do you enjoy the island setting? How does this feel constantly presented despite the fact that most of the characters are constrained to the inside of a hotel for the majority of the novel? What is the most interesting island you have ever visited in real life?
7. How do you feel about the attachment Sasha has to Cheeseburger the Ferret? How can pets help their owners through hard times? How does Cheeseburger compare with Knightley the Bunny, Clive the Octopus, Satchmo the Therapy Dog, Ruffles the Cat, Renoir the Cockatoo and Princess Buttercup the Goat (introduced in previous books in the series)? How is his role in this book different than these other animal companions?
8. Felicity is working to expand the scope of her small business by working with Chloe, despite her misgivings about the whole mystery weekend. Do you find the whole marketing aspect gimmicky, as Felicity does? Or does it merely add to the meta feel, because so many of the attendees are mystery and true crime fans?



9. How does it expand your understanding of Logan to finally see his family show up? How does Felicity fit into this new family dynamic? How is Logan like his parents and sister, even though they disagree on many things?
10. 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?
11. There's a lot of food mentioned in this book. Did any of it make you hungry? Anything from Enrique or Carmen's catering? Logan's chocolate bar flavors? What do you think of Felicity's attempt to make a chocolate bar that would pay homage to Cheeseburger the ferret? (When all the other animal companions received less unusual flavors to be paired with a chocolate bar?)