



BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

MYSTERY |
SUSPENCE



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING KICKBACK
FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK
CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

ANA MANWARING

This gripping novel, set against the vibrant backdrop of Mexico, promises a rollercoaster of emotions and heart-pounding action. Follow Dafne Olabarrieta as she navigates a web of danger, deceit, and unexpected alliances. With richly drawn characters and a plot that keeps you on the edge of your seat, "Kickback" is a must-read for fans of suspense and adventure. Experience the award-winning storytelling that has captivated readers and critics alike.

WORD COUNT: 94,640

PAGE COUNT: 418

KEY WORDS: Mystery Thriller | Hostage Negotiation | Mexico City | Kidnapping

DEMOGRAPHICS: Thriller and Suspense Enthusiasts | Fans of Strong Female Protagonists

COMP BOOKS: The Cartel by Don Winslow | Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia |

Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel | The Power of the Dog by Don Winslow |

The Savage Detectives by Roberto Bolaño

ISBN: 978-1-64456-784-5 [PAPERBACK]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-785-2 [KINDLE]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-786-9 [EPUB]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-787-6 [AUDIOBOOK]

LCCN: 2024920720

Mexican Fiesta Theme

- **Decorations:** Bright, colorful banners, papel picado, and traditional Mexican tablecloths.
- **Food & Drinks:** Serve huevos mexicanos, tortillas, and Mexican pastries like pan dulces. Offer coffee with half and half, and perhaps some margaritas or horchata.
- **Activities:** Have a discussion about the book's themes and characters, and maybe even a trivia quiz about Mexican culture and the book's setting.

Office Breakfast Theme

- **Decorations:** Set up a cozy breakfast nook with a coffee station, newspapers, and iPads.
- **Food & Drinks:** Serve coffee, eggy tortillas, and other breakfast items like croissants and fresh fruit.
- **Activities:** Discuss the book over breakfast, and perhaps have a debate about the characters' decisions and motivations.

Hostage Negotiation Theme

- **Decorations:** Create a serious, intense atmosphere with dim lighting and a mock "negotiation room."
- **Food & Drinks:** Keep it simple with coffee and light snacks.
- **Activities:** Role-play a hostage negotiation scenario inspired by the book, and discuss the ethical dilemmas faced by the characters.

Family Reunion Theme

- **Decorations:** Use family photos, heirlooms, and cozy home decor.
- **Food & Drinks:** Serve a family-style meal with dishes like casseroles and homemade desserts.
- **Activities:** Share personal stories and discuss the family dynamics in the book, and how they relate to your own experiences.

THEMED PARTY SUGGESTIONS

Appetizers

- Guacamole and Chips: Fresh avocados, lime juice, cilantro, diced tomatoes, and onions served with tortilla chips.
- Queso Fundido: Melted cheese with chorizo, served with warm tortillas.

Main Course

- Huevos Mexicanos: Scrambled eggs with tomatoes, onions, and jalapeños, similar to what Dafne was eating.
- Chicken Enchiladas: Corn tortillas filled with shredded chicken, topped with a rich tomato sauce and melted cheese.

Side Dishes

- Mexican Rice: Fluffy rice cooked with tomatoes, onions, and garlic.
- Refried Beans: Creamy pinto beans cooked with onions and spices.

Dessert

- Churros with Chocolate Sauce: Fried dough pastries rolled in cinnamon sugar, served with a warm chocolate dipping sauce.

Drinks

- Horchata: A refreshing rice milk drink flavored with cinnamon and vanilla.
- Margaritas: Classic lime margaritas, perfect for a book club gathering.

THEMED MENU SUGGESTIONS

Dafne's Dilemma

Ingredients:

- 1 oz espresso (for Dafne's busy mornings)
- 1 oz Irish cream liqueur (a nod to her past with Oliver)
- 1 oz Kahlua (representing her Mexican heritage)
- 1 oz vanilla syrup (for a touch of sweetness)
- 2 oz milk or cream (to smooth out the flavors)
- Ice cubes
- Whipped cream (optional)
- Cinnamon or cocoa powder (for garnish)

Instructions:

- Prepare the espresso and let it cool slightly.
- Fill a shaker with ice cubes.
- Add the espresso, Irish cream liqueur, Kahlua, vanilla syrup, and milk/cream to the shaker.
- Shake well until the mixture is chilled.
- Strain into a glass filled with ice.
- Top with whipped cream if desired.
- Garnish with a sprinkle of cinnamon or cocoa powder.



SIGNATURE DRINK

Breathe Me by Sia
The Night We Met by Lord Huron
Skinny Love by Bon Iver
Youth by Daughter
Slow Dancing in a Burning Room by John Mayer
To Build a Home by The Cinematic Orchestra
River by Leon Bridges
I Will Follow You into the Dark by Death Cab for Cutie
Holocene by Bon Iver
Cherry Wine by Hozier
Lost on You by LP
All I Want by Kodaline
The Blower's Daughter by Damien Rice
Stay by Rihanna (feat. Mikky Ekko)
Fix You by Coldplay



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, there is a wooden chair with a curved back. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. In the background, a table with a plant on it is visible. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a light color palette.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

Character Dynamics: How do Dafne and Seeger's differing views on starting a family impact their relationship?

Friendship and Betrayal: What are your thoughts on Dafne's reaction to Alba's betrayal? Can you empathize with her feelings?

Career vs. Family: How does Dafne balance her career ambitions with the pressure to start a family? Do you think she makes the right choices?

Cultural Context: How does the setting in Mexico City influence the characters' decisions and the story's progression?

Ethical Dilemmas: What ethical challenges does Dafne face in her role as a hostage negotiator? How does she handle them?

Mother-Daughter Relationship: Discuss the relationship between Dafne and her mother, Dorotea. How does it evolve throughout the story?

Modernization vs. Tradition: How does the theme of modernization versus tradition play out in Dafne's work at Inmobiliarias Aspectos Olabarrieta?

Secondary Characters: How do secondary characters like Seeger, Juan Carlos, and Ernesto contribute to the main narrative?

Personal Growth: In what ways does Dafne grow as a person throughout the story? What are the key turning points for her?

Future Predictions: Based on the events of the book, what do you think will happen next for Dafne and her family?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Ana Manwaring is a former newspaper lifestyle columnist. Her poetry, personal narratives, book reviews and short stories have appeared in diverse publications including the California Quarterly, KRCB Radio, Morning Haiku, Mystery Readers Journal, Stolen Light Ed. Fran Claggett, and Sisters Born, Sisters Found Ed. Laura McHale Holland.

A graduate of the University of Denver (B.A.) in Education and English Lit and Sonoma State University (M.A.) in Education/Linguistics, Ana teaches creative writing in California's wine country, produces the monthly FUNdaMentalists poetry event on Zoom and operates her editing company, JAM Manuscript Consulting—"Spread Excellence." In her "past life," she has owned and operated BookWork, an accounting and tax preparation service, managed a social service non-profit organization serving immigrants, and cared for the elderly, all of which she gave up to work for a PI, consult *brujos*, and out-run gun totin' maniacs on lonely Mexican highways—the inspiration for, *the JadeAnne Stone Mexico Adventures*. Read about her experiences in Mexico: www.saintsandSkeletons.com.

Ana's husband David, ace gopher hunter Alison, and a host of birds, opossums, skunks, deer, fox, coyotes, and occasionally the neighboring goats, co-habitat an acre of Northern California.

After earning her M.A., Ana finally answered her mother's question, "What are you planning to do with that expensive education?" Be a paperback writer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <http://www.anamanwaring.com>

OTHER BOOKS: The JadeAnne Stone Mystery Series | Saints & Skeletons