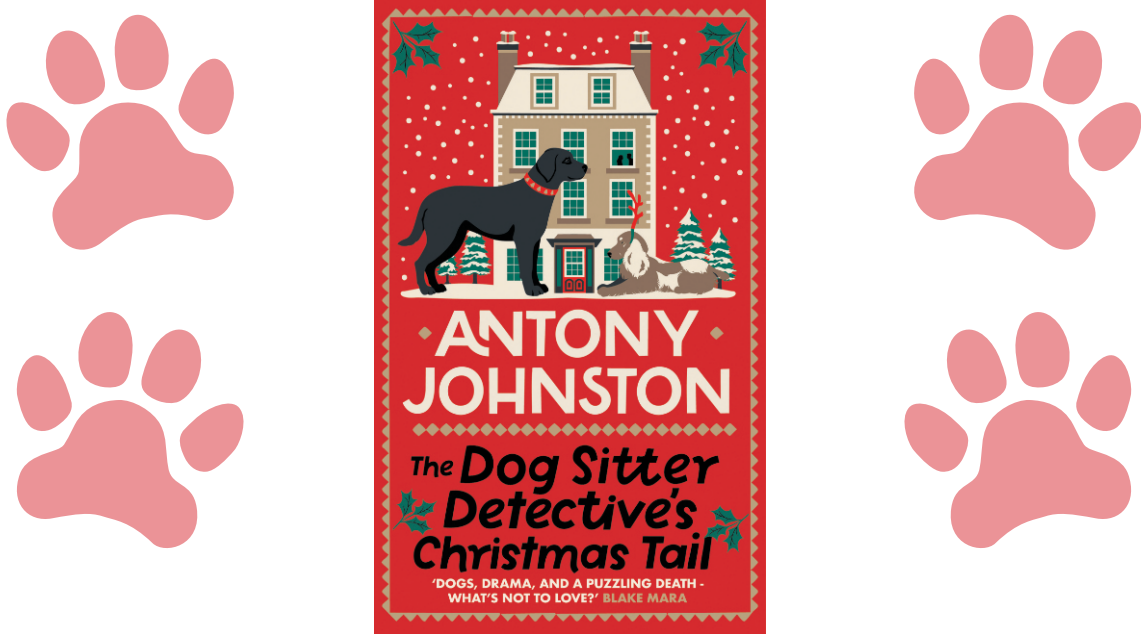


Book Group Questions for

The Dog Sitter Detective's Christmas Tail

by Antony Johnston



Book 4 in the Dog Sitter Detective series

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It's almost Christmas, and Gwinny Tuffel's thoughts are on what she'll buy for DCI Birch (retired) and whether she can adopt another furry friend. But sorting through her late father's papers leads her into his mysterious past, pointing to an enigmatic liaison now living in a Somerset commune.

Gwinny and Birch find themselves unexpectedly snowed in with a group of retired spies, along with an energetic Cocker Spaniel, and embroiled in a murder case. Will they uncover the culprit and escape in time for Christmas?

Thank you for reading this book! If you haven't read it yet, beware – some mild spoilers follow overleaf...

Book Group Questions for The Dog Sitter Detective's Christmas Tail

1. The author, Antony Johnston, is a dog lover.

Did you feel the depiction of the Cocker Spaniel Spiggy was true to life?
Has anyone in your group ever fostered for a local dog rescue?

2. The book takes place in Bath and Somerset, at a former farmhouse that's been converted to a 'quad'.

Has anyone in your group visited Bath or Somerset?
Would you live in a converted farm like the quad?

3. Gwinny's late father led a mysterious double life, using his German birth to help the British secret service in the Cold War.

Do you think he was right to do so?
Why do you think he never told Gwinny about his 'little favours'?

4. Jane was a successful spy because she was overlooked and ignored by men, like many female spies and agents in history.

Do you know of any historical female spies who were able to operate undetected in this way?
As the tradition of female spies is so old, why do you think they continue to be underestimated?

5. After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Paul was determined to travel to an assisted dying clinic in Switzerland.

Should Roy have agreed to accompany him?

6. According to the Detection Club, the 'rules' of a murder mystery say vital clues should be visible to the reader so they have a fair chance to solve the mystery themselves.

Do you think this book played fair?
What clues did you pick up on as you were reading?
Did you guess 'whodunnit' before the killer was revealed?

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