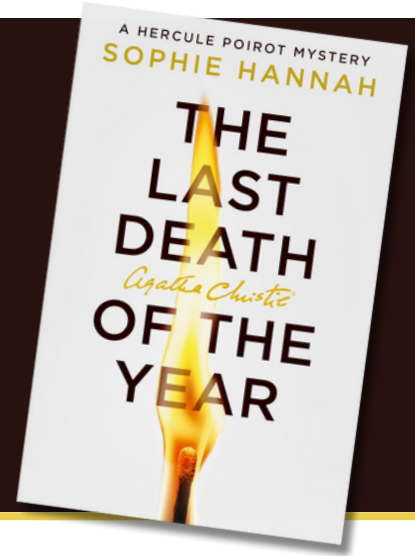


BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Take the hassle out of managing your book club with this reading and prompt guide. We have conveniently divided the book into digestible sprints of around 50 pages, with a set of questions and conversation starters for each section.

We recommend a reading plan of 2 days for each sprint but feel free to modify the schedule according to your group's reading pace.



PROLOGUE – CHAPTER 4

- What are your thoughts on the group's New Year's resolutions? Which one do you think the narrator might be referring to with the ominous phrase "wickedness and guilt"? What makes that particular resolution stand out?
- How would you describe The Spitty and its unusual residents? What kind of atmosphere does Sophie Hannah create in these early chapters, and how does it compare to classic Christie settings?
- Belty calls herself "the worst and least forgivable sinner here." What do you think she means by that? Does it seem like a throwaway comment, or something more revealing?

CHAPTERS 5 – 9

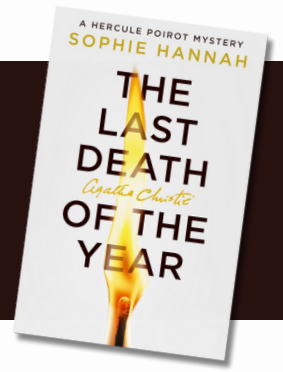
- How do you personally feel about New Year's resolutions? Did you set one last year, and if you're happy to share, how did it go? Do resolutions help us reflect and grow, or are they more performative?
- We're introduced to an anonymous 12th resolution. Who do you suspect wrote it and who might their "assistant" be? What clues are you picking up on so far?
- Catchpool comes up with a rather thorough list of questions for Poirot. If you were in his shoes, what other questions would you want answers to at this point in the story?
- What are your impressions of the murder scene? Did anything in particular stand out or surprise you?

CHAPTERS 10 – 14

- Why do you think Pearl St Germain insists there was no attempt on her life at The Spitty? What might motivate someone to deny such a serious event: self-preservation, fear, or something more strategic?
- Nash and his followers have a very particular religious outlook. What do you make of their beliefs and way of life? Could this kind of philosophy thrive in today's world, and how might it shape a person's moral compass?
- It's revealed that many of the guests have murky histories, including some who were suspected of murder in their past. How does this collective baggage influence Poirot and Catchpool's investigation?

'A delicious, twisty, delightful read [...] Christie fans are in for a treat.'

ALEX MICHAELIDES, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE SILENT PATIENT* AND *THE MAIDENS*



CHAPTERS 15 – 19

- What struck you most about the interviews Poirot and Catchpool conduct with the residents? Did anyone's behaviour or story raise red flags for you? Who's creeping up your suspect list?
- We still don't know exactly what Belty is hiding. Based on what we've learned so far, what do you suspect she's keeping from the group? And if you'd been part of the vote, would you have chosen to let her stay at The Spitty?
- How did you react to Olive's secret revelation? Does her honesty make her seem less likely to be involved in Matthew's death, or do you think it's a calculated move to throw suspicion off?

CHAPTERS 20 – 26

- Poirot decides to dismiss Austin Lanyon from the kitchen rather than question him directly. Why do you think he chose to let him go? Was it a tactical decision, or something else?
- Belty doesn't name Austin as a suspect, despite his unsettling "test." And neither Charles nor Thirza bring it up either. Why might they all be keeping quiet about it?
- At this stage in the story, who do you think is responsible for Matthew's death? What's your current working theory and how would you go about testing it, if you were to take Olive's advice?

CHAPTERS 27 – EPILOGUE

- What were your immediate reactions to the final chapter? Did any of Poirot's deductions match your own theories, or did the reveal take you completely by surprise?
- Nash's philosophy of total forgiveness shaped the entire community at The Spitty. To what extent do you think he bears responsibility for what happened? Is his approach noble, naïve, or dangerously misguided?
- Looking back, do you think the New Year's resolutions contained any clear hints about the identity of the murderer(s)? Were there clues hiding in plain sight?
- How did you feel about the way each character's story was wrapped up in the epilogue? Were there any outcomes that surprised, satisfied, or disappointed you?
- How well do you think Sophie Hannah captures the spirit of Christie's original Poirot stories? Did anything feel particularly true to – or different from – the classic mysteries?

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

Don't forget to leave your thoughts and comments on your Novellic book club, and subscribe to our newsletter for more book club guides and reading tips.