



STUDY GUIDE

Marshal Sweeney Delaney was just a rookie in his small Iowa town when Congress ratified the

18th Amendment. Prohibition threw the whole nation into a tailspin. Even teetotaling Christians jumped on the bandwagon and began making panther piss in a still behind the barn. Then—a Chicago gangster came to town. His name: Louie La Cava. Sweeney followed the adage: Keep your friends close; your enemies closer. Two old friends are part of his inner circle: Walter Bierkoff, a farmer and man of keen curiosity, and the perspicacious Father John Halpin, priest at the I. C. Catholic Church.

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(EXAMPLE OF ON-LINE BOOK REVIEW)



Trude

★★★★★ You don't want to miss this...trust me!

September 2, 2018

Format: Hardcover | **Verified Purchase**

Wow...just wow! What a fantastic book, I've been a fan of Hank Phillippi Ryan since I read Prime Time, and love her Jane Ryland books. This is her first stand-alone and she knocks it out of the park! The subject matter is timely and the writing fast paced with twists and turns around every corner...just when you think you know what is happening Hank changes things up. Who do you trust...what do you trust?

Mercer is trying to pull herself out of the darkness after the deaths of her husband and daughter in a tragic car accident when her friend and editor talks her into writing a book about the trial of a young woman...Ashlyn...accused of killing her daughter. Trust me...she's guilty...until she's not and the jury frees her. Now the book Mercer is writing has to change focus...she needs to get Ashlyn's story about what happened. Just when you think you know what happened...you don't. Ashlyn is a master manipulator and Hank masterfully leads us through the maze until the final twist at the end. Trust me...this book is one of the best books of the summer!

17 people found this helpful

Helpful

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WRITING AN ON-LINE BOOK REVIEW

Thank you for choosing to read *Gangster in our Midst* (2017).

It is my fondest wish that this STUDY GUIDE will help maximize your enjoyment of this historical mystery crime novel.

When you finish reading the book, I encourage you to write and post a review on-line. As you probably know, on-line book reviews encourage others to read the book. Below are a few questions to spur ideas about what you might say:

- 1) How did you feel when reading the book?
- 2) What themes or thoughts did you get while reading the book?
- 3) What did this book remind you of?

Here are 2 places for you to post your review:

Amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/Gangster-our-Midst-Bookkeeper-lieutenant/product-reviews/0999263536>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/44103840-gangster-in-our-midst?ac=1&from_search=true

Your comments will also be valuable as I write the sequel to *Gangster in our Midst*.

I hope you enjoy *Gangster in our Midst*, and I look forward to your review!

Betty Brandt Passick

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General Discussion Questions

Story:

1. What is the significance of the title? Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what is your title?
2. What were the themes of the book? Do you feel they were adequately explored? Were they brought to life in a cliché or in a unique manner?
3. What did you think of the structure and style of the writing?
4. What scene was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place?
5. What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way? Why?
6. Has anything ever happened to you similar to what happened in the book? How did you react to it differently?

7. What surprised you the most about the book?

8. Were there any notable racial, cultural, traditions, gender, sexuality or socioeconomic factors at play in the book? If so, what? How did it effect the characters? Do you think they were realistically portrayed?

9. How important is the setting and time period to the story? How would it have played out differently in a different setting? What about a different time period?

10. Were there particular quotes that stood out to you? Why?

Characters:

11. Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know?
How?

12. What is motivating the actions of the characters in the story? What do the sub-characters want from the main character and what does the main character want with them?

13. What were the dynamics of "power" between the characters? How did that play a factor in their interactions?

G A N G S T E R in our M I D S T

- 14.** How does the way the characters see themselves differ from how others see them? How do you see the various characters?
- 15.** How did the "roles" of the various characters influence their interactions? I.e.,
For a woman: Mother, daughter, sister, wife, lover, professional, etc.
- 16.** If you could smack any of the characters upside the head, who would it be and why?
- 17.** Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently?
- 18.** What past influences are shaping the actions of the characters in the story?

The Ending:

- 19.** Did you think the ending was appropriate? How would you have liked to have seen the ending go?
- 20.** How have the characters changed by the end of the book?
- 21.** Have any of YOUR views or thoughts changed after reading this book?
- 22.** What do you think will happen next to the main characters?

Overall:

23. Are there any books that you would compare this one to? How does this book hold up to them?

24. Have you read any other books by this author? Were they comparable to your level of enjoyment to this one?

25. What did you learn from, take away from, or get out of this book?

26. Did your opinion of the book change as you read it? How?

27. Would you recommend a friend unleash it?