



A PETTICOAT POLICE MYSTERY

MURDER ON NORTH TERRACE

Book Club Questions

1. If you've previously read *The Death of Dora Black*, how does *Murder on North Terrace* compare?
2. Which character did you find most compelling in this second Petticoat Police Mystery, and why? How did Ethel and Miss Cocks grow? Did your opinion of them change?
3. 1917 was Australia's deadliest year of World War One. Does Lainie Anderson sufficiently capture this?
4. How effectively does the book blend fact and fiction?
5. The Art Gallery scandal around William Orpen's *Sowing New Seed* is central to the story – and based almost entirely on fact. If the painting was bought today, for the modern equivalent of \$8m, would the people of Adelaide react differently?
6. How are twentieth-century gender roles and expectations portrayed? Were there moments that particularly stood out? Given the differing gender expectations of the era, was Auntie Connie right to try to protect the identity of her friend Arcady Hopgood from Ethel's murder investigation?
7. Thinking back to the restaurant scene between Ethel and Alistair, do you think Ethel should or could have handled it differently?
8. The real Kate Cocks told a reporter that she'd once dreamed of marrying a farmer. She also told a niece she'd once been in love, and might have chosen differently if she knew how lonely life would be. How do you feel about Lainie Anderson taking these small snippets of truth and turning them into fiction, given Cocks was a real woman from history?
9. What lingering questions or themes did the book leave you with? Would you recommend it to others? Why/why not?
10. Lainie Anderson thinks Kitty Flanagan would be the perfect Miss Cocks in a television series. What do you think?

