

Discussion Questions



About the Book

Book Title: *Black Orchids Hotel*

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1. What are your general impressions of *Black Orchids Hotel*?
2. Much of the mystery turns on the creation of marionettes that resembled living people. Marionettes also serve as characters performing during the mystery weekend. Did you find this element of the story intriguing?
3. Wrenn becomes entwined in the personal lives of Foundling housekeeper Heloise Tallis and recent parolee Jack. Discuss Wrenn's emotional battle as she wrestles with deciding how and when to reveal the knowledge she's acquired.
4. Wrenn was in awe of O'Shea Griffin's atelier. What were your impressions of the studio during Wrenn's various trips to visit O'Shea?
5. Review the storyline included in the 1901 newspaper articles written by Able Jackson, "The Community Mourns" and "A Titan Memorialized." O'Shea Griffin was unaware of these unfortunate circumstances in his relative's life. Have you ever uncovered a dark story from a family member's past? How did it affect you?
6. Discuss the heated relationship between cousins, Levi Ledger and Sheldon Gentry. Ledger shared the history of casino chips. Sheldon works as a freelance subtitles editor. Did you find these characters interesting?
7. Wrenn takes the stage to solve the Black Orchids mystery. How many of the clues were on your "tray of evidence" when the solution was revealed?
8. Two picture frames help close off the story. Both were gifts, one given to Heloise, the other to Wrenn. Do you agree that the two frames nicely tied off two segments of the mystery? Explain why?
9. Which guests and/or which clues did you find most thought-provoking about the mystery hatched at *Black Orchids Hotel*?