

Book Group Discussion Guide

Box Turtles, Hooligans, and Love, Sweet Love: Collected Columns

by Mary Dansak

1. Mary dedicated this book to the state of Alabama. If you were to dedicate something to your state, what features, nature- or human-centered, would you specify in your dedication?
2. After reading *Box Turtles, Hooligans, and Love, Sweet Love*, what would you say is the overarching theme of this book?
3. How well does the title, *Box Turtles, Hooligans, and Love, Sweet Love* encapsulate the overarching theme? Use specific examples from the essays to support your answer.
4. Some essays in this collection, such as “I Survived the Midway Roller Rink,” fall into a more traditional memoir category than others. How do these essays support the overarching theme of the book?
5. The back cover claims that Mary Dansak “weaves hard science with a unique style of storytelling.” What is one example where she blends hard science with storytelling? Do you agree that her storytelling style is unique? Why or why not?
6. The back cover guarantees you “fodder for conversation at all your family gatherings and cocktail parties.” What are some examples of fodder for conversation you might use in social situations? Are there any you would avoid? Explain your choices.
7. Share something that elicited an emotional response and name the emotion.
8. Share something that inspired you. How did it inspire you? How will you act on that inspiration?
9. Mary Dansak does not shy away from her opinions in this collection of columns. What is one opinion of hers with which you strongly agree or disagree? Tell us more.
10. What is your overall impression of the book? To whom would you recommend it, or not? Why?

Authors Note: Thank you for reading *Box Turtles, Hooligans, and Love, Sweet Love*. Please note that writers rely on reviews and recommendations to reach new readers. Positive reviews on Goodreads, Storygraph, Amazon, and/or other social media platforms are tremendously helpful, and I graciously appreciate each one. Word of mouth is, of course, invaluable. You are welcome to contact me directly at marydansak.com.

Live wild, love hard, be you,
Mary

