



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *The Cellist* by Daniel Silva

1. Daniel Silva has said that the first Gabriel Allon book was written as a stand alone – he felt an Israeli main character could not become an American best seller. What characteristics about Gabriel has made readers want to read more?
2. Despite the book being part of the Gabriel Allon series, the title character is “The Cellist” and Gabriel’s role was reduced from past books. What did you think about the character of Isabel?
3. In the author’s note, Daniel Silva talks about how the 2021 attack on the US Capital Building convinced him to change the ending of his book. What are your thoughts about changing an entire book plot because of these events? Do you think these last-minute changes impacted the quality of the book for better or worse?
4. While this book is a work of fiction, the Rhine Bank was based on the German Deutsche Bank. Did the information in the author’s note about this bank impact the way you thought about the fictitious Rhine Bank?
5. What risks did Silva take as an author by tackling such polarizing political topics?
6. Many of the main characters in Silva’s novel have a strong connection to the Arts. Why is this important?
7. Did you appreciate the way Daniel Silva treated the pandemic in this book? Is it important to acknowledge the pandemic in fiction or would you prefer to read in a fictional present where the pandemic never happened?

The above questions were developed by staff at Clarington Library, Museums & Archives for your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

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Daniel Silva's complex, well-researched spy thrillers are filled with action and often violent, as his haunted heroes face dangerous missions, exposing past secrets that pose present danger. Silva has created two series characters, ex-CIA agent Michael Osbourne and Mossad agent Gabriel Allon. His heroes and villains alike are introspective, ruthless, and very believable. The history of times, people, and places always plays a vital role his dark, suspenseful tales of unlikely spies and controversial politics. – *from Novelist*.

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