



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *State of Terror* by Louise Penny and Hillary Rodham Clinton

1. In the title “State of Terror”, what state are the authors referring to?
2. Do you think the former US President Eric Dunn and Russian President Ivanov are based on actual people, and if so, what are the similarities?
3. When Secretary Ellen Adams arrived at the State of the Union address disheveled, the media heavily commented and criticized her appearance. Would they have done the same if she were a man?
4. Ellen has a good relationship with one child and a strained relationship with the other. Is this a typical American family dynamic?
5. Do you feel Ellen is respected in her position as Secretary of State? Do you think the role of Secretary of State in this book is accurate?
6. If you were faced with a similar dilemma would you choose faith, family, or country?
7. A lion is referenced three times in the book; Fables of Bidpi (pg. 262), the story of Gilgamesh (pg. 272), and operation Lion Heart (pb. 340). Who do you think the lion is?
8. Which “A-ha” moment surprised you the most?
9. The Grand Ayatollah Khosravi is the purportedly humble spiritual leader of Iran, however he has vast power, money and influence. Is he an anomaly amongst spiritual leaders?

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

# Author Biographies

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Louise Penny is an international award winning and bestselling author whose books have hit #1 on the *New York Times*, *USA TODAY*, and *Globe and Mail* (Toronto) lists. Her Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels, published by Minotaur Books, an imprint of the St. Martin's Publishing Group, have been translated into thirty-one languages. In 2017, she received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture. Louise Penny lives in a village south of Montréal.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is the first woman in US history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party. She served as the 67th Secretary of State after nearly four decades in public service advocating on behalf of children and families as an attorney, First Lady, and US Senator. She is a wife, mother, grandmother, and author of seven previous books, all published by Simon & Schuster.

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