



# Book Club in a Bag

## Discussion Questions

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### *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman

1. What do you think inspired a middle age housewife to become an aspiring writer who pursues the murder of a forgotten young woman?
2. Why do you think Cleo Sherwood's death was forgotten? Why is Maddie so determined to find the truth?
3. Maddie's investigation brings her in contact with people who are on the periphery of her life, such as a jewellery store clerk and a waitress. Why do you think Maddie often fails to see the people right in front her? How does this echo the case she is trying to solve?
4. How did the pace of the book impact your reading experience? Was it too fast/too slow/just right?
5. Discuss the cover of the book. How does it impact your reading of the story?
6. Kirkus Reviews is quoted: "The story is bigger than the crime, and the crime bigger than its solution, making Lippman's skill as a mystery novelist work as icing on the cake... The racism, classism, and sexism of 50 years ago wrapped up in a stylish, sexy, suspenseful period drama about a newsroom and the city it covers." Discuss this review.
7. Maddie and Cleo are from different worlds, but their stories often depict similar struggles. Discuss how their lives were similar and different.
8. Cleo's perspective is written from the first person whereas Maddie's is written from the third. How does this style influence your reading and connection with each character?
9. The *Washington Post* describes *Lady in the Lake* as a love letter to Baltimore newspapers and an homage to the city and its people. Do you agree with this statement?

The above questions were created by CLMA staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

# Author Biography

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Laura Lippman was a reporter for twenty years. She attended Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She was awarded the Edgar, the Anthony, the Agatha, the Shamus, the Nero Wolfe, Gumshoe, and Barry awards. She lives in Baltimore.

<http://www.lauralippman.net/about>

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