

The Key Lime Crime

Book 10 of the Key West Food Critic Mysteries

Discussion Questions

1. I always end up writing about families no matter what I set out to write—extended families, biological families, stepfamilies, and in this case, in-laws. I'd had some readers suggest that they couldn't warm up to the main character's new husband. I began to think about that—why he was so reserved, why his parents did not attend the wedding, and what it would be like if his mother made an unplanned visit. And so she does visit, without warning, at a most inconvenient time. What were your reactions to Nathan's mother, Helen Bransford?
2. From Rex Stout's famous foodie Nero Wolfe to Virginia Rich's *The Nantucket Diet Murders* to Diane Mott Davidson's *Dying for Chocolate*, and now the Key West mysteries, what do you think explains our passion for combining cuisine and crime? Why do you choose to read culinary mysteries?
3. One of the biggest challenges when writing an amateur sleuth mystery, is developing a reason for the sleuth to get involved. How did you feel about Hayley's stake in solving the key lime crime?