

Murder with Ganache

Book 4 of the Key West Food Critic Mysteries

Discussion Questions

1. Hayley's mother says that "life develops around the kitchen table" and that "kids need to understand how food connects the people in their lives." Hayley's stepmom insists that life develops at work—who cares whether a mother uses a cake mix or serves macaroni from a box? Where would you stand in this argument?
2. Hayley's parents have a disagreement about social justice on the way to the marina. How do you feel about the homeless people as presented in the book? Have you had any personal experience with homeless folks?
3. When Hayley's brother Rory gets into trouble, the family struggles with how much to tell the police. They wonder whose side the cops are on. How do you think you might react in a similar situation? Would you trust the police to have your interests at heart?
4. Hayley says "Food meant comfort and love and even peace in my family." If you had to sum it up, what would you say food meant to your family?
5. Hayley tells Rory "I've discovered that family has less to do with biology than it does with who cares enough to make the effort." Does this statement ring true for you? Talk about a person who isn't a blood relation in your life who feels like family.
6. When spirits are low, Hayley and her mom make comfort food for the extended family—spanakopita and Greek salad and strawberry whipped cream pie. What menu would you design to cheer up a troubled family member or friend?