

Death with All the Trimmings

Book 5 of the Key West Food Critic Mysteries

Discussion Questions

1. One of the most challenging parts of writing an amateur sleuth mystery is figuring out a believable reason for the character to get involved in crime-solving. What was Hayley Snow's stake in this story? Did you find her actions believable?
2. Hayley Snow says: "The part of my job that feeds my soul is writing about food. Teasing out what makes one meal good, but another magical. Discovering a new chef or a new dish and describing my find to the world—or at least to other food-addled diners who'd go out of their way for something special. For me, the cooking itself was not so much the miracle. It was all about the eating. And then choosing the words that brought that food to life on the page."

Is reading about food and her work as a food critic an important part of the book for you? Do you enjoy other novels or memoirs set in the food world? Why or why not?

3. *Death with All the Trimmings* takes place at Christmas time, so all the quirky customs of Key West are on display such as the lighted boat parade, the hometown Christmas parade, the lowering of the Drag Queen on Christmas Eve, the costumed Dachshund parade on Christmas Eve day. How do you feel about reading about Christmas traditions in a mystery? How do these celebrations compare to the ones where you live?
4. Cassie, a character from the Golf Lover's mystery series, makes an appearance in this book. If you've read those mysteries, how did you feel about Cassie's cameo? If you haven't, did this character and her husband Joe intrigue you? Why or why not?
5. Discuss the character of Chef Edel Waugh. Did you find the hurdles she faces as a woman believable? What about her reasons for reaching out to Hayley Snow?