

A Deadly Feast

Book 9 of the Key West Food Critic Mysteries

Discussion Questions

In *A Deadly Feast*, food critic Hayley Snow is set to be married to her heartthrob detective Nathan Bransford. But she has a lot of worries because Nathan's been married before and both sets of parents were married and then divorced. So she canvasses her friends and family about their experiences with marriage. Hayley's mother says: "Being married takes work," my mom said, glancing at my father. "Life gets stressful and hectic and you stop paying attention. And then trouble comes calling." Whereas Steve Torrence who conducts lots of weddings says: "I'll tell you my theory about what makes a marriage work— people who know how to talk to each other through thick and thin and assume only the best motives from their partner have the best chance of surviving. As you know, we can't predict what kind of life changes and challenges you'll face together. We can only work on how graciously you'll handle them." Hayley thinks this about her own parents: "Staying married took commitment and a little luck and family support and lots and lots of tending, which they had been too young and too overwhelmed to manage back then."

1. What's your theory about what makes for a good marriage? Does it seem to you that Nathan and Hayley are a good match? Why or why not?
2. When you're reading about a fictional wedding, how much do you like to hear about wedding plans and details? What are your favorite examples of fictional weddings, either books or movies? Explain why you chose them.

And for some non-wedding questions:

3. Have you ever gone on a food tour? If so, where? If not yet, where would you love to eat your way around?
4. Martha Hubbard talks about chefs feeling possessive about the recipes they make and serve—they don't want diners making substitutions. How do you feel about that?
5. How do you feel about Hayley's relationship with her mother? And compare this to her relationship with Miss Gloria and Allison, her stepmother.
6. Hayley's boss Palamina says she never understood why Hayley was living with a senior citizen, until she met Miss Gloria. How do you feel about this character? Does she accurately reflect seniors?