

C.L. HYDE'S

Resource for Book Clubs

THE SERPENT'S TRAP

THE THIRD BOOK IN THE TRUST MYSTERY THRILLER SERIES.

C.L. Hyde — introductory biography

After too many years on the corporate treadmill, the author, with the support of his wife and four children, summoned the courage to pursue his artistic passions. Writing, rather than painting or sculpture, was set upon as at it seemed to offer at least some prospect of scraping a living in a world where words travel electronically to reach a potentially vast audience.

For the author, all three artistic endeavours involve similar processes of prodding into shape a whimsey that can be made recognisable and pleasing both to him and an observer. The author's aim is very much to create an outcome that is a pleasurable experience *in the moment* and upon reflection. Indeed, if you recall one of the author's yarns in the future and take some meaning from it, that is the ultimate accolade for him.

The author enjoys wonderful coffee and the absurd, the utter variety in particular.

C.L. Hyde's writing genre

Currently, the author is focusing on the Mystery Suspense genre but adulterates it with the liqueur of family drama, zestful action and adventure and sprinklings of romance, science, and psychological intrigue to ensure his stories skate along the

boundary separating believability and incredulity. By the end of one of his stories, if you do not feel you've inadvertently stepped into a dimension parallel to the world you are used to and wondered how you got there, the author will not have felt he has been successful.

Questions for book clubs

For your book club meeting, please consider questions from the following.

1. Warm-up questions.

- a. Is THE SERPENT'S TRAP the right title for the story? Is the cover suitable and enticing? If you were to re-title the book or change the cover, how would you do so?
- b. If THE SERPENT'S TRAP were a film, who would you like to see in the roles of Sasha and Hernandez?
- c. What was best about THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- d. Did you enjoy the writing style?

2. Characters.

- a. Which characters did you take a shine to or disliked?
- b. Were the characters believable? Or did some lack adequate depth or have motivations which were not credible?
- c. If you were in Bram's or Alicia's shoes, would you have acted differently?
- d. How did Sasha and Alicia change through the story?
- e. Were Sasha's motivations believable?
- f. If you could read THE SERPENT'S TRAP from other than Bram's perspective, which character's point of view would you choose?
- g. Of the secondary characters (e.g., Bassey, Lukas, Damien, Cyrus, Adriana, and Marybeth), were any too lightly or too heavily drawn?

- h. The Irish You Tree Trust plays a pivotal role in the story. Do you consider the Trust a character or a plot device?

3. Themes and messages in THE SERPENT'S TRAP.

- a. What themes or messages did you see in THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- b. Were there any aspects of THE SERPENT'S TRAP which stood out?
- c. Were any other features of THE SERPENT'S TRAP surprising?
- d. How well did the C.L. Hyde build a world in THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- e. What is your favourite quote from THE SERPENT'S TRAP? Why so?
- f. Does THE SERPENT'S TRAP appeal more to a female or a male reader?
- g. Who did you feel was the antagonist in the story?

4. Plot.

- a. Did you enjoy the plot?
- b. Did you enjoy how the story started?
- c. Were you pulled along by the plot or the characters?
- d. Are there plot points left unresolved?
- e. Did you enjoy the twists?
- f. Was the ending satisfying?
- g. What would you change about the ending?
- h. Did you find you read for longer at each sitting than you intended? If so, why do you think this arose?

5. Story Structure.

- a. Was the overall story structure appealing?
- b. Was the opening of Sasha and Bram waking in bed together unexpected?

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- c. Is THE SERPENT'S TRAP the right length? What would you add or cut from THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- d. Did C.L. Hyde provide enough credible detail to make the world created in the story believable?

6. Warm down questions.

- a. Are you glad you read THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- b. Did THE SERPENT'S TRAP remind you of other books?
- c. Did C.L. Hyde's writing style remind you of another author?
- d. Would you recommend THE SERPENT'S TRAP?
- e. What do you think happens to Bram and Xoesse after THE SERPENT'S TRAP ends?
- f. Are you keen to read the fourth book in the Trust series, THE SECRET WIFE?

News on C.L. Hyde release and updates

At **clhyde.com** you can sign up to the authors' newsletter, which provides news and notifications and forthcoming releases.



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