



THREE-DAY TOWN: Book Club Discussion Guide

Irrelevant factoid: My agent's apartment building served as the model for the one in this book. She and I spent a glorious hour prowling around in the basement's boiler room.

Margaret Maron on the writing of *Three-Day Town*: For years, readers have wanted Deborah Knott and Sigrid Harald to meet, but I couldn't think of a logical reason for it to happen. Then I realized that Deborah and Dwight had never had a honeymoon, so why not New York? Especially since his sister-in-law Kate (first introduced in *Death in Blue Folders* and later in *Bloody Kin*) still owned her Manhattan apartment. Agatha Christie used to concoct closed-circle mysteries set in stately manors. I decided that an Upper West Side apartment building with 24-

hour elevator service would work just as well.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. The chapter captions for this book describe the “modern” attributes of 1909 New York. Discuss one that amused you.
2. Manhattan is a collection of villages, each with its own ambiance and values. At one point, one of the tenants says, “Living on the Upper West Side is like living among Bolsheviks. The sooner we move back to the East Side, the better.” From her remarks, what can you gather about the two?
3. Young Corey Wall is addicted to gambling. Are addictions genetic? Would drugs or alcohol be easier to deal with or worse?
4. Sigrid's grandmother has opted not to take new chemo or radiation treatments for her cancer. Do you agree with her decision?
5. The killer blames bad timing for the murders: “Three minutes later and he'd still be alive.” Have you ever had an experience (good or bad) that would have happened or could have been avoided had you arrived a few seconds earlier or later?

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