

# BOOK CLUB KIT

**INCLUDES:**  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
COCKTAIL RECIPES  
PODCAST SUGGESTIONS



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about Elle at the end of the book versus the beginning? Did your opinion of her change throughout the novel? If so, what changed it? If not, why?
2. What do you think of Elle's friendship with Sash and Natalie? Do you think it's common for people who can't become parents to "adopt" a friend's child as their own in an unofficial way?
3. Elle and Martín have a strong, supportive marriage and the plot of this book does not revolve around conflict between them. How is it different or similar to other marriages depicted in psychological suspense novels?
4. While she's not a police officer herself, Elle has to work alongside the detectives to accomplish her goals. How did you feel about this book featuring an amateur sleuth? Would you have preferred she be a detective? If not, would you have preferred she find a way to investigate without the police getting involved?
5. Many of the secondary characters in this book stand between Elle and her goals, but they later become essential to achieving them. What can this tell us about how we approach handling challenging relationships in our own lives?
6. Much of the story in this book is told through podcast transcripts rather than standard prose. How did you feel about this medium? Do you listen to podcasts yourself? Did whether or not you listen to podcasts impact your enjoyment of the transcripts?
7. How did you feel about the introduction of DJ's point of view? Were you glad it was included, or would you have preferred it wasn't? How would it have changed the book if you didn't hear from him?
8. At its core, this book is about two people's very different reactions to a childhood trauma. Elle and DJ both went through something terrible as children, but their lives took dramatically diverse paths as adults. What factors do you think went into the choices they made?
9. Elle lets listeners and readers in on a secret about her past at a crucial point in the novel. How did you feel about this reveal? Were you surprised? Did you suspect? Do you think the author wanted you to guess her identity? If so, why?
10. At the end of the book, Elle realizes her focus on victims over perpetrators in the podcast has shifted. How do you feel about the way true crime treats victims generally? What are the ethics of an amateur sleuth, or even a journalist, making the worst thing that has happened to a person an object of media consumption without their permission?

**GIRL, 11**

**AMY SUITER  
CLARKE**



# COCKTAIL RECIPES

Thank you to Justine from *Literary Elixirs* for her delicious recommendations.

## ROSEMARY MEZCAL APPLE CIDER (SERVES 4)

Because the story is set in Minnesota, a state known for its apples—and because it's complex and tart, with a warmth from the mezcal that counters this serial cold case.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 8 ounces mezcal
- 4 ounces fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon agave nectar
- 2 cups unfiltered apple cider
- 4 fresh rosemary sprigs
- ice to shake and ice to serve
- a few pinches sea salt
- apple slices, to garnish

### MIXOLOGY:

Pour mezcal, lime juice, agave, apple cider, and a few pinches of sea salt into cocktail shaker. Stir to incorporate agave. Pinch off a few rosemary leaves and muddle into liquid for just a few seconds, crushing against base of cocktail shaker to release flavor. Add ice, cap cocktail shaker, and shake. Pour through strainer into 4 glasses. Add large ice cube to each glass, and garnish with rosemary sprigs and apple slices.

## SASSY AMARETTO MARTINI (SERVES 1)

Dark and intense just like the story, sassy and passionate like Elle, and with a coffee hit to keep you going until the end, this is a different, yet delicious, take on a classic.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1.5 ounces blueberry liqueur
- 1 ounce amaretto liqueur
- 1.5 ounces espresso
- ice to shake
- roasted coffee beans, to garnish

### MIXOLOGY:

Shake vigorously over ice and double strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with roasted coffee beans.

## THE BENNETT (SERVES 1)

A variation on the classic gimlet that leans on the all-important addition of Angostura bitters. If you like, add a dash of cinnamon to amplify the spice. Bitter and spice and all things nice...

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ounces gin
- ¾ ounces lime juice
- ¾ ounces simple syrup
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters
- lime wheel, to garnish

### MIXOLOGY:

Add all ingredients to a cocktail shaker. Shake and strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with a floating lime wheel.

## STRAWBERRY BASIL MOCKTAIL (SERVES 1)

A non-alcoholic drink with fruity flavor and a savory undertone.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 medium strawberries
- 4-6 basil leaves
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 teaspoon sweetener of choice
- 1 cup sparkling water
- Ice to serve

### MIXOLOGY:

Muddle strawberries, basil, lime, and sweetener in glass for about 1 minute. Top with sparkling water and stir gently. Add ice.

# GIRL, 11

AMY SUITER  
CLARKE



# PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

If you're disappointed that Justice Delayed is over, here are some of the true-crime podcasts that inspired Elle Castillo.

- Uncover (CBC Podcasts)
- Someone Knows Something (CBC Podcasts)
- Tom Brown's Body (Texas Monthly)
- The Clearing (Pineapple Street Media)
- Truth & Justice with Bob Ruff (NBI Studios)
- Missing & Murdered (CBC Podcasts)
- In the Dark (APM Reports)
- Cousins By Blood (Matt Duff)
- Jensen & Holes: The Murder Squad (Exactly Right)
- Undisclosed (Undisclosed)
- Bear Brook (New Hampshire Public Radio)
- Root of Evil (TNT/Cadence13)





## ABOUT AMY SUITER CLARKE

Amy Suiter Clarke is a writer and communications specialist. Originally from a small town in Minnesota, she completed an undergraduate degree in theater in the Twin Cities. She then moved to London and earned an MFA in creative writing with publishing at Kingston University. She currently works for a university library in Melbourne, Australia.

*Girl, 11* is her debut novel and will be published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in the United States, Text Publishing in Australia, and other publishing houses all over the world in 2021.

Amy's short stories and feature articles have appeared in *Ad Hoc Fiction*, *The Ram Boutique Vol. 1*, the online literary magazine *Storgy*, *Eureka Street* magazine, and two Kingston University Press magazines. She has written articles, marketing copy, and corporate communications for a variety of companies in the legal, information technology, accounting, advertising, and bridal industries.

You can find out more about Amy on her website: [www.asuiterclarke.com](http://www.asuiterclarke.com)

FOLLOW AMY  @asuiterclarke  @asuiterclarke

**GIRL, 11**  
AMY SUITER  
CLARKE