

The Maid Discussion Questions

by Nita Prose

Author Bio: (from Fantastic Fiction & Authors Website)

Nita Prose is a longtime editor, serving many bestselling authors and their books. She lives in Toronto, Canada, in a house that is only moderately clean.



The Maid has sold over 1 million copies worldwide and was published in more than forty countries. It was a Good Morning America Book Club pick. *The Maid* won the Ned Kelly Award for International Crime Fiction, the Fingerprint Award for Debut Novel of the Year, the Anthony Award for Best First Novel, and the Barry Award for Best First Mystery, and was an Edgar Award finalist for Best Novel.

Characters:

- **Molly Gray** – (25) – Maid. Works at the Regency Grand Hotel. Estranged from mother. Loves working as a maid. Socially awkward. Was raised by her grandmother who died 9 months ago.
- **Charles Black** – Real estate tycoon. Molly finds him dead in his bed in his penthouse room. Long time repeat guest at the hotel. Has 3 children with his first wife. His daughter, Victoria, owns 49% of the stock in the Black business empire. His second “trophy” wife is Giselle.
- **Giselle Black** – Mr. Black’s second wife. Married to Charles for 2 years. Molly’s friend.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Chen** – Repeat hotel guests from Taiwan.
- **Gran Gray** – Molly’s grandmother. Raised Molly. Died nine months ago.
- **Cheryl Green** – Regency head maid and Molly’s supervisor. Lazy. “Chernobyl.” Steals tips.
- **Juan Manuel** – Regency dishwasher. Undocumented worker from Mexico. Sneakily sleeping at the hotel. Molly gives him keys to empty rooms.
- **Mr. Preston** – Regency doorman. Has been at the hotel for over 20 years. Widowed. Wife was Mary. His daughter, Charlotte, is an attorney. Was old friends with Molly’s grandma.
- **Charlotte Preston** – Lawyer. Mr. Preston’s daughter. Molly’s attorney.
- **Mr. Alexander Snow** – Regency hotel manager.
- **Detective Stark** – Detective in charge of the murder investigation. Female.
- **Rodney Stiles** – Regency head bartender at the Regency Social Bar & Grill. Wears a Rolex. Molly has a “thing” for him.
- **Sunitha** – Regency maid. Quiet. From Sri Lanka.
- **Sunshine** – Regency maid. Chatty. From the Philippines.
- **Wilbur** – Molly’s former boyfriend and cheat. He is the cause of Molly’s money issues.
- **Regency Grand Hotel** – 5-star boutique hotel.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. The story is told from Molly's viewpoint. Did you like the way the story was set up? Why do you think the author chose a first-person viewpoint?
3. The book is purposefully vague about the city and country where the story takes place. Why do you think the author did that? Where do you picture the story and why?
4. What did you think of Molly as a character? What made her believable to you?
5. It appears Molly's on the autism spectrum, although it's never specifically said. What are your thoughts about Molly, her interactions with others and how you feel about her as a protagonist as a whole?
6. Why was working in the maid service industry the right fit for Molly?
7. Molly's Gran helped her interpret the world. How did things change for Molly after her Gran passed away?
8. Gran and Molly believe in the three E's - Etiquette, Elocution, and Erudition. Is there a moment in the novel where Molly's application of these three values stood out to you? If you had to pick just one of these, which would you say is the most important?
9. Molly has a very distinct sense of what is right and wrong, but sometimes this takes the form of her Gran's "Robin Hood" morality, in which fairness and justice can override what others may traditionally consider "right" or "wrong." Do you think this willingness to help others is brave or naive? What would you do in her situation?
10. Molly is aware that others tend to make assumptions about her based on her demeanor and her position as a maid. During her interrogation she says, "I'm a hotel maid. Who would ever want to talk to me?" when asked about her friendship with Giselle. What does it suggest about power dynamics and the assumptions people tend to make about others who are different from themselves?
11. Why did Giselle take a special interest in Molly? Do you believe they were truly friends? Why did Molly tell Giselle to leave the country after Rodney is arrested?
12. Who did you first think was responsible for Mr. Black's death?
13. Molly becomes the main suspect in Mr. Black's murder investigation. Why? If she had behaved differently, do you think she would have been the only suspect? Why or why not?
14. How did being the number one murder suspect and having to open herself up to new friends, help Molly grow and understand actions by others a bit more?
15. Who was your favorite side character and why?
16. How did you feel about Molly's relationship with Juan Manuel? Was there anything that surprised you?

17. Mr. Black, Rodney, and Juan Manuel are using the empty hotel rooms for a drug operation. Do you think Mr. Snow, the hotel manager, knew what was going on in the empty rooms of his hotel? Why or why not?
18. At the end of the book, there is a hint that Mr. Preston is Molly's grandfather. What do you think? Why do you think this question was not answered in the book?
19. Did you know who the killer was before it was revealed? What clues were given?
20. In the end, we discover that Molly knew a lot more about the crime than she let on. Do you agree with her choices? Did these actions change the way you felt about Molly?
21. What did you think about the ending overall? What's next for Molly?
22. ***The Maid*** was Nita Prose's debut book. Will you read her next book?

References:

- Beyond the Bookends – <https://www.beyondthebookends.com/the-maid-book-club-questions/>
- Book Club Chat – <https://bookclubchat.com/books/book-club-questions-for-the-maid-by-nita-prose/>
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- Random House Books -- <https://www.randomhousebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/the-maid-by-nita-prose-book-club-kit.pdf>

Nita Prose's Books

Molly the Maid

- The Maid (2022)
- The Mystery Guest (2023)

If you liked ***The Maid***, try...

- [Pretty as a Picture](#) – Elizabeth Little
- [The Lazarus Hotel](#) – Jo Bannister
- [Now You See Us](#) – Balli Kaur Jaswal
- [The Color of Bee Larkham's Murder](#) – Sarah J Harris
- [Quick and the Dead](#) – Susan Moody