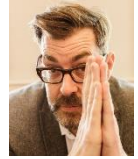


## The Thursday Murder Club Discussion Questions

by Richard Osman

**Author Bio:** (from Fantastic Fiction & Penguin Random House)

Richard Osman is an author, producer and television presenter. The *Thursday Murder Club* is his first novel. He is well known for TV shows including *Pointless* and Richard Osman's *House of Games*. He is also a regular on panel and game. He lives in London with his partner, and Liesl the cat.



### Characters:

- **Ibrahim Arif** – (80) – Used to be a psychiatrist. Retired. Usually well-dressed. Member of the Thursday Murder Club.
- **Bernard Cottle** – Retired science professor. Has worked all around the world. Friends with Joyce. Widowed.
- **Tony Curran** – Coopers Chase's builder. Owns 25% of what he builds at Coopers Chase. Used to sell drugs until he became a legitimate builder. Murdered. Bludgeoned. A picture is left at his murder scene.
- **PC Donna De Freitas** – (26) – Fairhaven police officer. Is currently working in public information and doing safety lectures.
- **Elizabeth** – Used to work "for the government." Retired. Has a forceful personality. Member/leader of the Thursday Murder Club. Married to Steven, her third husband, an expert in Middle Eastern art. He has dementia.
- **Steve Ercan** – Owns Steve's Gym. Turkish Cypriot (from Cyprus), like Johnny Gunduz.
- **John Gray** – Retired veterinarian. Married to Penny Gray.
- **Penny Gray** – Retired police inspector. A former member of the Thursday Murder club. Penny used to bring the club cold cases to work on. She is now in the nursing home section of Coopers Chase. Husband is John Gray.
- **Johnny Gunduz** – Person who took the picture of Tony Curran, Bobby Tanner, and Jason Ritchie. Johnny killed a cabbie and stole money from Tony Curran. He then disappeared (presumably by returning to Cyprus).
- **Detective Chief Inspector Chris Hudson** – In charge of Curran's murder investigation.
- **Bogdan Jankowski** – Polish. Ian Ventham's "Go-To" guy. Supposed to take over building responsibilities from Curran.
- **Father Mike Mackie** – Priest. Wants to protect the convent's old graveyard, which is the next area slated to be renovated in Coopers Cross.
- **Annie Madeley** – Girl who was murdered in the 70's by her boyfriend, Peter Mercer.

- **Joyce Meadowcroft** – Retired nurse. Daughter, Joanna, runs a hedge fund. Joyce is organized, but overlooked. She is a problem fixer. Member of the Thursday Murder Club.
- **Peter Mercer** – Man whose body is in the graveyard.
- **Gordon Playfair** – Farmer who owns the land Ventham wants to buy next. Karen is his daughter.
- **Karen Playfair** – Gordon Playfair's daughter. Wants her father to sell his farm to Ventham.
- **Jason Ritchie** – Famous. Retired boxer. Used to hang out with Tony Curran when he was a young man. Ron Ritchie's son. One of the 3 men in the picture left by Tony's body.
- **Ron Ritchie** – Retired trade union organizer. Likes to argue. He's one of the first residents of Coopers Chase. Son, Jason, is a famous retired boxer. Member of the Thursday Murder Club.
- **Bobby Tanner** – One of the people in the picture found by Tony's body.
- **Ian Ventham** – (50) – Owner of Coopers Chase. Wheeler and dealer. Has a wife.
- **Coopers Chase** – Luxury retirement village in Britain. 300 residents, all 65+. Used to be a convent.
  - Willows – Nursing home part of the facility.
  - Larkin Court – Part of Cooper's Chase.
  - Woodlands – New development which would dig up the old convent's graveyard.
  - Hillcrest – Future projected development.
- **Bramley Holdings** – Bought Cooper's Chase from Ventham's widow.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. The typical amateur detective novel doesn't usually use a diary as a narrative device. And yet, in **The Thursday Murder Club**, we got a lot of first person POV from Joyce's diary. What did you think of her diary entries? What, if anything, did they add to the story?
3. In the book, we meet four amateur detectives. Elizabeth (operative and ringleader), Ibrahim (psychiatrist and Zumba class aficionado), Ron (labor organizer who secretly prefers wine to beer), and Joyce (the nurse who cooks). Which did you identify with the most? If you joined the Murder Club, which role might you play in the group dynamic?
4. Joyce was a nurse, Elizabeth was in the secret service, Ibrahim was a psychiatrist, and Ron was a trade union leader. Who do you think was most helpful in solving the crime? Who do you like best: Joyce, Elizabeth, Ibrahim, or Ron? Why?
5. Tony Curran's murder set the action in motion. But his wasn't the only murder and there were plenty of other crimes and tragedies committed throughout the book. What surprised, interested, or confused you the most about the various murders and crimes?

6. Joyce says 'I am very happy to be overlooked and always have been. And I do think perhaps that will be helpful in this investigation.' Do you agree? What did you think of Joyce's low-key personality. Other than the diary, what does she contribute to the team?
7. Did you think that PC Donna De Freitas and DCI Chris Hudson made a good team? What did one bring that the other lacked, and vice versa?
8. At the heart of this book is a 'warning never to underestimate the elderly'. What characteristics do a group of seniors have going for them that a younger group would not? What are their disadvantages? Who misjudges the residents of Cooper's Chase the most?
9. There is a tricky relationship which develops between the Murder Club and police team of Donna and Chris. At times, Elizabeth manipulates both police officers, but at other times, there is a friendly give-and-take happening. Did those relationships work for you? Why or why not?
10. Who did you think the killer was? What made you think it was them?
11. One of the reoccurring themes is the grey area between the law and each character's moral code. Do you think Penny's husband, John, did the right thing? How about Penny?
12. "Killing someone is easy. Hiding the body, now, that's usually the hard part. That's how you get caught. I was lucky enough to stumble upon the right place, the perfect place, really. I come back from time to time, just to make sure the thing is safe and sound. It always is, and I suppose it always will be. Sometimes I'll have a cigarette, which I know I shouldn't, but it's my only vice." And with that opening line, we are off to the races. And yet, reflecting back upon all of the revelations in the closing chapter, is it at all clear which character was speaking here?
13. Elizabeth has a lot going on in her life. She is leading the Thursday Murder Club, trying to support Penny (and John), and is carrying the burden of her own husband's decline. How did you respond to Elizabeth? Why do you think she is so invested in the club?
14. What do you think about Bogdan? Were his actions justified? Should he be prosecuted for his actions?
15. What does Stephen's interaction with Bogdan tell you about Stephen? About Stephen and Elizabeth's marriage?
16. Do you think Elizabeth knows what Bogdan did and is pretending not to know? Why?
17. A lot of commenters were confused about the purpose of the photo, which was left at Curran's murder scene, and also sent to Jason. Did this element confuse you as well? Was it a clue? Or was it a red herring?
18. Were you in it more for the cast of characters...or for the murder?
19. How much experience do you have with retirement homes and assisted living centers? Have you ever seen or heard of one with the amenities of Coopers Chase Retirement Village? Would you be willing to live there?
20. Richard Osman has written other books in this series. Will you read them?

## References:

- Fantastic Fiction – <https://www.fantasticfiction.com/o/richard-osman/>
- GoodReads – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/46000520-the-thursday-murder-club>
- La Crosse Library – [https://www.lacrosselibrary.org/sites/default/files/u108/discuss\\_the\\_thursday\\_murder\\_club.pdf](https://www.lacrosselibrary.org/sites/default/files/u108/discuss_the_thursday_murder_club.pdf)
- Libromaniacs – <https://libromaniacs.com/the-thursday-murder-club-book-club-questions/>
- Novelist – <https://web-s-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.clevnet.org/novp/detail?vid=2&sid=6211e58b-f0e4-4748-949f-b8f536644a8f%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cC1saXZl#UI=10929084&db=neh>
- Penguin Random House – <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2201645/richard-osman/>

---

## Richard Osman's Books

### Series:

#### Thursday Murder Club

1. The Thursday Murder Club (2020)
2. The Man Who Died Twice (2021)
3. The Bullet That Missed (2022)
4. The Thursday Murder Club 4 (2023)

---

## If you liked The Thursday Murder Club, try...

- Magpie Murders – Anthony Horowitz
- Exit – Belinda Bauer
- Marlow Murder Club – Robert Thorogood
- An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good – Helene Tursten
- Amy Among Serial Killers – Jincy Willett