

BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUBS

Flames of Anarchy

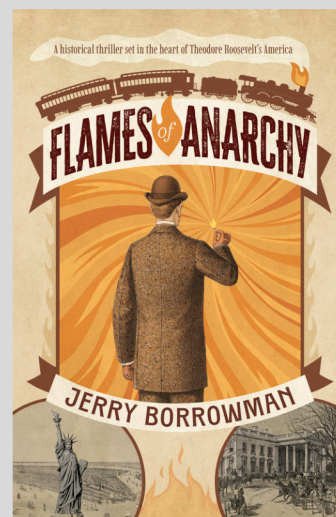
JERRY BORROWMAN

1. What are your thoughts on the main characters—Senator Jason Ellis, Andy Pettit, and Theodore Roosevelt?
2. What are your impressions of the villains—Anton Kozlov, Angel Casimer, and Big Jim Fitzsimmons?
3. How effectively were the fictional characters integrated with historical figures in a believable way? Consider interactions with Roosevelt, the Prince of Wales, and Kaiser Wilhelm II.
4. How much did you know about the anarchist movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s before reading this book?
5. How do you think President McKinley's assassination by an anarchist—and Roosevelt's subsequent rise to the presidency—affected American politics at the time and in the years since?
6. Are there parallels between the anarchist movement of 1910 and modern terrorism, such as the 9/11 attacks, the commuter train bombing in Spain, or the London Underground bombings?
7. Anarchists in the book were politically motivated—fighting to transfer wealth from “robber barons” to the working class. Today, many terrorist attacks are driven by religious ideologies. Do you feel history is repeating itself in some way, or are these movements fundamentally different?
8. Did learning about early 20th-century technology—telephones, motorcars, etc.—enhance the story or slow it down?
9. Which scenes in the book did you particularly enjoy?
10. Were there any scenes or storylines that felt improbable? What could the author have done to improve those parts?

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11. How effectively does the novel convey the political atmosphere of 1908, especially regarding anarchist threats and the fragile balance of power in the U.S. Senate? Did it reshape your understanding of the early 20th-century American political climate?
12. Roosevelt is portrayed as a powerful but transitional figure. How does this portrayal compare to your previous perceptions of him? What do you think the author is suggesting about the limits of even the most powerful leaders?
13. As a former Pinkerton detective and Ellis's right-hand man, Andy Pettit moves between legal and covert operations. How does his pragmatic, sometimes ruthless, approach contrast with Ellis's idealism? When is the tension between them most evident?