Discussion Questions for The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

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1. Though the book follows the four friends solving the murder, the only first-person POV is Joyce’s via her diary. Why do you think the author chose to show her perspective this way?

2. 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? What strengths did they each bring to the table? What were their weaknesses?

3. Do you think that PC Donna De Fritas and DCI Chris Hudson make a good team? Do you think Donna was smart to stay in touch with Joyce, even though it was unprofessional at times? What did you make of the relationship between the detectives and the septuagenarians?

4. 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.” What insights does she gain by not calling attention to herself, and staying under the radar?

5. Society often writes off the abilities of older people. At the heart of this book is a lesson to never underestimate this population. Who misjudges the residents of Coopers Chase the most? What are the consequences of underestimating the four friends?

6. One of the recurring themes is the gray area between the law and each character’s moral code. Do you think Penny’s husband, John, did the right thing? How about Penny?

7. At any point, did you have an idea about who might have committed the murder? Who did you suspect and why?

8. Joyce is always baking, and the others are always eating. What cake did you think was the best?