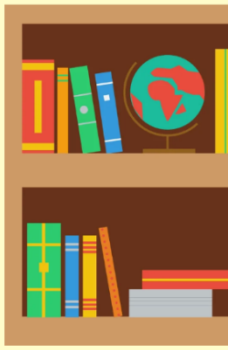
A Cozy Mystery Conversation for Willful Obsession



QUESTIONS TO SPARK CONVERSATION, COMPARE CLUES, AND SHARE THEORIES





Questions to Inspire Discussion

Willful Obsession: A Lake Waluga Cozy Mystery

The Story
With the will missing and an unscrupulous nephew circling, a parks director, Mary, has thirty days to find her late best friend's will or forfeit not only the Community Garden's expansion but her safely buried secret dream.

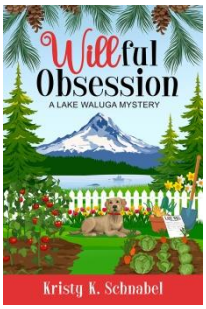
Note from Kristy
When I learned how vulnerable our system of wills is and how people don't generally do well putting their affairs in order and sharing that information, I got inspired. Using my hometown of Lake Oswego, Oregon, called Lake Waluga in the story was an easy call. I had a blast inventing characters and inserting a lovable dog who likes to eat paper —Did Chompers eat the will? — into the mix.

Discussion Questions

1. Mary is the executor of her late best friend's will, but it vanished. How far would you go in this situation to fulfill a promise? Did she go too far?
2. The thirty-day deadline until Leap Day created tension. Did that pressure make Mary more desperate or impulsive?
3. How did Mary's secret complicate her role as executor of Denise's will?
4. How would you describe Mary and Ned's marriage? Are secrets from the past before a marriage permitted?
5. What are your thoughts of Mary reading someone's private letters?
6. How did the Pacific Northwest setting, specifically the community garden, lake, diner, and neighborhood, contribute to the cozy feel of the story?
7. How would you describe the evolution of Mary's amateur sleuthing from the beginning to the end of the story?
8. If Denise's nephew gets the will proceeds, what would be the consequences for Mary and the community?
9. Discuss the men in Mary's life: Ned, Officer Joe, Magnus (her brother), and Blake (Community Garden director).
10. Discuss the clues and red herrings in the story. Were you convinced that someone was the culprit, and then you changed your mind?

11. What was it like for you as a reader to read Mary's internal thoughts in addition to narration?
12. Did the ending's twists feel surprising but fair? What clues helped you piece together the truth?

About Kristy
Kristy started writing after retirement, and once she started, she couldn't stop. Great friends and husband Larry support her writing—she couldn't do it without them. Kristy and Larry live in Oregon.



If you want to escape to a compelling, cozy mystery, check out *Willful Obsession: A Lake Waluga Mystery*. If you admire strong women amateur sleuths, suspenseful stories with surprising twists, quirky characters, a charming town with loads of secrets, community gardens and friendly neighborhoods, and most of all love animals, this story is for you. For reviews and to learn more, head to your favorite bookstore.