

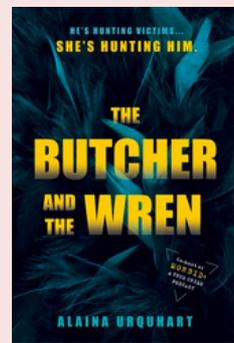
BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

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Discussion Questions

The Butcher and The Wren

by Alaina Urquhart



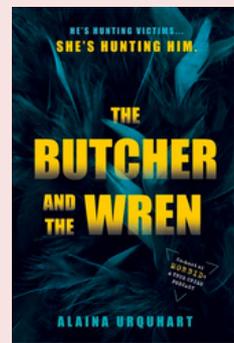
1. Set in New Orleans, a melting pot of Caribbean, Spanish, French and African cultures, the city is renowned for its mystical séance. From Voodoo queens to professed vampires and Wiccans, the city is self-described as the most haunted in the USA and the place where the dead refuse to rest. How well does the author capture this magical city and do you think it was an appropriate backdrop for her story?
2. Sometimes books start off strong but have endings that fall a little flat. Then there are books that are a little hard to get into at first but are enjoyable after a while. How did you find this one?
3. As to be expected with a thriller, there are creepy parts of the book that left most readers chilled. Were there any passages that spooked you or got under your skin? What were they?
4. It's clear that *The Butcher and the Wren* was inspired by several true crime cases, were there any elements of the story or characters that reminded you of a case or killer? Please give an example.
5. The use of multiperspectivity has become an incredibly popular narrative form in recent books, how well was this used in *The Butcher and the Wren*? How did it impact your reading and the development of the story? Did you feel the two characters were distinct enough from one another?
6. The author, like Doctor Wren Muller, is an autopsy technician and readily offers her extensive medical knowledge through her protagonist. What did you learn through reading the book and was there anything that really stuck out?
7. What did you think of the writing style and content structure of the book? Were you captivated by the story? What did the author do well and what could they have improved?
8. Were there any clues that you picked up before the twist was revealed?



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9. Of all Jeremy's victims why do you think Tara survived? What led to him to lose his composer and usual modus operandi? As a fellow survivor, does she share any traits with Emily?
10. Emily strikes us as being different from Jeremy's other victims, not only because she survived but also given his pre-existing relationship with her. What about her character do you think sets her apart?
11. To those who listen or have listened to *Morbid: A True Crime Podcast*, how did Alaina's writing in her novel compare to her case retelling on the podcase? Do you think she is better at one more than the other? If so, how do you think it can be improved?
12. *The Butcher and the Wren* has already been green lit for a TV adaptation, who would you cast as Jeremy and Emily?
13. Given the cliffhanger ending, a sequel is likely, will you read it?

