

Don't Quit Your Day Job

Book Club Discussion Questions

By Carrie Clock • Book 2 of the Anastasia Day Ghost Mystery Series

These questions are designed to encourage thoughtful discussion without revealing major plot developments, the identities behind the mysteries, or the ending. They explore the characters, relationships, history, faith, career choices, and themes that make the novel more than a paranormal mystery.

1. Characters and Relationships

1. How would you describe Anastasia (Ana) Day at this stage of her life? What qualities make her relatable?
2. How does Ana's tendency to think carefully before making decisions help her? When might it hold her back?
3. What do Ana's friendships with Charlene and Natalia reveal about the value of having people with different personalities and perspectives in our lives?
4. How do humor and playful teasing help the characters navigate difficult or uncomfortable situations?
5. What qualities do you think are essential to a healthy romantic relationship? How does the novel encourage readers to consider those qualities?

2. Career Choices and Personal Growth

6. Why can a new professional opportunity feel intimidating even when it offers potential benefits?
7. How much weight should a person give to salary, benefits, job title, personal fulfillment, and opportunities to serve others when considering a career change?
8. Have you ever struggled with a decision because you were comfortable where you were? What ultimately helped you decide whether to stay or take a chance?
9. What does the title *Don't Quit Your Day Job* suggest to you? Does it have a literal meaning, a figurative meaning, or both?
10. How can stepping outside our comfort zones lead to personal growth? Is change always necessary for growth?

3. History, Women, and Society

11. How does the novel use its historical setting to connect the past with the present?
12. What can historical research teach us about the lives, opportunities, and challenges of women who came before us?
13. Why is it important to preserve the stories of ordinary people, particularly women whose contributions might otherwise be forgotten?
14. How have women's career opportunities and expectations changed over time? What challenges do you think remain?
15. How does the combination of historical details and a modern-day mystery affect your interest in the story?

4. Faith, Spirituality, and the Unexplained

16. The characters approach questions of faith and the supernatural from different perspectives. How do their differing viewpoints enrich the story?
17. Do you prefer a paranormal mystery that offers rational explanations, supernatural possibilities, or room for both? Why?

18. How can someone remain open to unfamiliar possibilities while still thinking critically and asking questions?
19. What role does prayer, spiritual reflection, or personal intuition play in making difficult decisions?
20. Do you believe unusual or unexplained experiences can influence the way people view their beliefs? Why or why not?

5. Compassion, Service, and Purpose

21. What does the novel suggest about using one's skills, resources, or professional experience to help others?
22. How can compassion for people in difficult circumstances become meaningful action rather than simply good intentions?
23. What can the way people treat vulnerable individuals and animals reveal about their character?
24. Is a person's success better measured by professional accomplishments, financial security, personal fulfillment, service to others, or some combination of these?
25. How can difficult experiences inspire people to pursue a purpose they might not otherwise have discovered?

6. Mystery, Setting, and Storytelling

26. How does Ana's historic home contribute to the atmosphere of the novel? What makes a setting feel like a character in its own right?
27. How does the author balance paranormal mystery with everyday concerns such as work, friendship, and relationships?
28. Which elements of a ghost story do you find most compelling: the unexplained events, the historical background, the investigation, or the characters' reactions?
29. How does humor affect the suspense in a story involving the supernatural?
30. What makes a mystery satisfying to read, even when the reader cannot immediately explain everything that happens?

A Final Question for the Group

If you could offer Ana one piece of advice about navigating change, relationships, or the unknown, what would you tell her—and why?

Optional Questions for a Deeper Discussion

These questions may be especially interesting for book clubs that enjoy connecting fiction to real-life experiences.

- Have you ever discovered that an opportunity you initially feared became an important turning point in your life?
- How do you distinguish between a genuine warning sign and fear of the unfamiliar?
- Can two people with very different beliefs still learn from and respect one another? What makes that possible?
- What does it mean to have a purpose, and how might that purpose evolve as we grow older?
- If you could ask Carrie Clock one question about the inspiration behind *Don't Quit Your Day Job*, what would it be?

Reader Discussion Note

The novel explores paranormal experiences, faith, relationships, career decisions, historical perspectives on women, and domestic violence-related themes. Book clubs may wish to let participants know about these topics before beginning their discussion.