

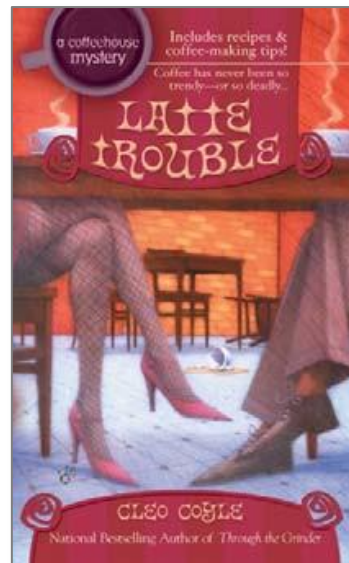
## ***Reading Group Questions Book 3***

The following reading guide was inspired by a set of questions composed by Jane Reed for a reading group discussion conducted at Java.net Books and Gifts, a coffeehouse and bookstore located in Cuba, Missouri. These questions may spark your own reading group discussion or help to keep it going. Feel free to skip questions or add your own.

### **Latte Trouble by Cleo Coyle**

#### **Coffeehouse Mystery #3**

**Story Summary:** Clare Cosi is thrilled when her coffeehouse is chosen to host a fashion week launch party for a clever line of coffee-inspired jewelry. During the party, Clare's most trusted barista, Tucker Burton, unwittingly serves up a poisoned latte. When he's arrested for murder, Clare vows to clear him, and the quest for the real killer puts her in some of the hottest water of her life. Recipes included.



1. As the book opens, a Fall Fashion Week party is being held at the Village Blend, and coffeehouse manager Clare Cosi is worried about her best barista, Tucker Burton. Tucker appears to be upset. Why?
2. Who is Matteo Allegro? And who is Breanne Summour? Why does Clare have a negative view of Breanne? Although Clare and her ex-husband have been divorced for years, do you think Clare still has feelings for Matt? If you read the previous book in the series, ***Through the Grinder***, then discuss how that book ended and how that ending might have affected Clare.
3. Who is Lottie Harmon? Why is the Village Blend an important place to her? How are Tad Benedict and Rena Garcia connected to Lottie? If you'd met Lottie at the Village Blend, would you have wanted to work with her?
4. After the poisoning at the party, Detectives Starkey and Hutawa come to the Village Blend to investigate. What makes Tucker Burton appear guilty of murder to "Starkey and Hut"?

5. Clare doesn't believe Tucker murdered anyone. Who does Clare suspect was the intended victim? If you were one of the investigating detectives, would you believe Clare?
6. What is Matt's new plan for the Village Blend? What does Clare think about it? What does Madame think about it and why is her reaction important to both Clare and Matt? Did you learn anything new about coffee from this subplot? How do Matt's coffee plans end up helping Clare's investigation?
7. At the beginning of Chapter 16, Clare has a dream that she's floating in the Hudson River. What does this dream tell you about Clare? What "slip up" does Clare make at the end of this chapter? Why do you think she makes it?
8. If Matt were your ex, do you think you would have let yourself make this same "slip up"? What aspects of Matt's character still make him both a good guy and a bad guy?
9. As Clare investigates this case, which character or characters did you most strongly suspect of wanting Lottie Harmon dead? What were their motives?
10. When Clare finally sees her friend NYPD Detective Mike Quinn in this book, it's on police business. What news does Quinn deliver to the Village Blend? Were you surprised by it? Why does Quinn think Tad has no motive for this second poisoning? Did you doubt Quinn or believe him?
11. Who is Fen and what do we find out about him in the course of the novel?
12. Clare accuses Fen of idealizing a past romantic relationship. Do you think there are parallels between Fen and Matt? Do you think Matt is idealizing his past with Clare?
13. Who is Lottie Toratelli? Who is Mona Lisa Toratelli? Explain how the two Toratellis and Harriet Tasky are all connected to Lottie Harmon.
14. Do you think Harriet Tasky was smart to do what she did? How did her experiences in the fashion industry change her? Do you think today's fashion industry requires that we change ourselves to be considered "acceptable"?

15. What piece of information helped you figure out who the killer really was? What was the killer's motivation? Why did the killer try to poison Lottie with aspirin first and then with cyanide and then with aspirin again?

16. Clearly, the killer was disturbed. Do you also think the killer was justified?

17. At the end of the book Mike Quinn tells Clare: "Maybe you don't get over the bad stuff, but there is usually something good to focus on instead." Do you think the killer—and those people driven by a need for vengeance—would be better off adopting Mike's philosophy?

18. Considering Mike's philosophy as one theme in this book: Do you think that is what Matt is trying to do with Clare: focus on the good things in their present instead of their past troubles? When it comes to Matt, do you think Clare is capable of focusing only on the present?

**Final Note:** Cleo Coyle enjoys hearing from readers. She invites you to post to her on her "Coffee Talk" message board (in the upper right column) of her online coffeehouse at [www.CoffeehouseMystery.com](http://www.CoffeehouseMystery.com) or write to her at:

[CoffeehouseMystery@gmail.com](mailto:CoffeehouseMystery@gmail.com)