

The Knife Slipped by Erle Stanley Gardner Book Club

1. What do you think of the 1st person narration?
2. This book was written in 1939 but not published until 2016, how does it feel dated?
3. How do you feel about the descriptions of people in this book?
4. Donald Lam is the narrator, what do you think of him?
5. How do you feel about the first case as a divorce case tailing a cheating husband and the monetary negotiations?
6. What do you think of Ruth getting into Donald's car when she doesn't know him?
7. How do you feel about Bertha Cool?
8. What do you think would be different if the book was from Bertha's perspective?
9. Why do you think Bertha got a new car for Donald?
10. Do you think working on cases involving politicians would be more dangerous? Why or why not?
11. Who is your favorite character and why?
12. Who is your least favorite character and why?
13. How does Ruth giving Donald the murder weapon affect the story?
14. Did you realize what the oblong pieces of silk were used for before Bertha revealed it?
15. Why do you think Donald takes so many beatings during the course of the book?
16. What do you think of the imagery of Bertha trying to cut herself a piece of cake and the slip of the knife?
17. Was Donald visiting Judge Longan a good idea? Why or why not?
18. Do you think hiding Ruth under an assumed name with a fake accent is a good idea? Why or why not?
19. What does Ruth's confession about her past say about the views of women in the 1930s?
20. How does Donald taking the money from Ralph Cerfitone affect your view of Donald's character?
21. Do you think Bertha is correct in her statement about formal wear being the perfect disguise for a private detective?
22. What did you think of the confrontation between Bertha and Mrs. Premmer?
23. How does the relationship between Ruth and Donald affect the story?
24. Do you think justice occurs in this book?
25. What do you think of the ending?
26. Did you like the book?
27. Do you want to read more in the series?
28. What did you think of the Afterword?