

Book Club Kit Discussion Guide
The Cuckoo's Calling
By Robert Galbraith

Author:

Robert Galbraith is a pseudonym for J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series and *The Casual Vacancy*.
From the publisher's website.

Summary:

When a troubled model falls to her death from a snow-covered Mayfair balcony, it is assumed that she has committed suicide. However, her brother has his doubts, and calls in private investigator Cormoran Strike to look into the case.

Strike is a war veteran - wounded both physically and psychologically - and his life is in disarray. The case gives him a financial lifeline, but it comes at a personal cost: the more he delves into the young model's complex world, the darker things get - and the closer he gets to terrible danger . . .

A gripping, elegant mystery steeped in the atmosphere of London - from the hushed streets of Mayfair to the backstreet pubs of the East End to the bustle of Soho - *The Cuckoo's Calling* is a remarkable book. Introducing Cormoran Strike, this is the acclaimed first crime novel by J.K. Rowling, writing under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. *From the publisher's website.*

Questions:

1. What do you think of Cormoran Striker? What are his secrets...and what drives him in the dogged pursuit of the Truth?
2. What makes Lulu Landry's apparent suicide suspicious? Lulu's character is gradually revealed and the story progresses. What kind of person was she?
3. How does the author portray the culture—and the characters—of worlds of fashion world and the very rich?
4. Using a hard-bitten investigator assisted by a young, ambitious "Girl Friday" is a classic detective-story trope. What do you think of Robin Ellacott? What does her character bring to the story?
5. Good mystery writing leads readers astray with red-herrings. Who were you first suspicious of?
6. Does the fact that the book was penned by J.K. Rowling affect your view of it? "In speculating as to why J.K. Rowling might have written *The Cuckoo's Calling* under a pseudonym, the *New York Times* wrote, "Ms. Rowling may well have felt that the reaction, both critical and commercial [to *Casual Vacancy*, her first effort after Harry Potter], was distorted by her fame." Why do you think she felt compelled to use a pseudonym? If you've read her Harry Potter books, do you detect any similarities, either in style or structure?
7. Were you surprised by the ending? Or did you see it coming? Why...or why not?
8. It appears that Striker may be part of an ongoing series. Will you be reading more of his escapades?