

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Killing Pilgrim by Alen Mattich

1. Mattich draws on elements of hard-boiled detective fiction. Some of the archetypal characters in detective fiction include: the private investigator who is being used as a pawn in a larger game; the police detective who tries to keep the private investigator off the case; and the deadly woman who may be involved in the crime, but whom the private investigator finds himself sexually and intellectually drawn to. How does the author use and modify these archetypes with respect to the characterization of Marko, Julius, and Rebecca?
2. Many characters in the novel are forthright about their self-interested behaviour. Why do you think Rebecca sleeps with Julius? What does she get out of it?
3. How effective do you think the split storyline — between Marko's point of view in 1991 and the Montenegrin's in 1986 — is at building suspense? How does it develop the Montenegrin's character?
4. What are some of the groups and attitudes this book pokes fun at? Would you say the book has a political agenda? If so, what is it?
5. What do you think Steve Higgins is doing in Dubrovnik? Is he who he says he is?
6. Alexandre Dumas's novel *The Three Musketeers* is referenced many times in *Killing Pilgrim*. What does this add to the novel? What themes do these references reinforce?
7. Why is the Montenegrin willing to talk to Rebecca at all, let alone in person?
8. Marko worked for the body that made sure the UDBA was "playing fair" according to legal requests made by the government. How complicit is Marko in all of the overseas assassinations?

9. How does the Montenegrin's daughter feel about her father?
10. *Killing Pilgrim* is very cinematic in its pacing and structure. Who would you cast in a film version of *Killing Pilgrim*? Who would you want to direct it? What changes, if any, would you make to adapt it for film?
11. How are women and girls depicted in the novel compared to men and boys?
12. What characters do you identify with most? Why?
13. How satisfied were you with the ending? Were there any plot points you felt weren't resolved?