

the
**SILVER
SHADOW**

Book Club Kit

Denver of 1900 is still a dangerous place to be following the silver crash of 1893. And out of the dark comes a shadow intent on harming women. Ambitious young Denver newspaper reporter Polly Blythe is searching for the big story that's going to launch her career. On Friday evening, August 24, 1900, she gets her break when two women are cracked over the head within a two-minute walk of each other.



About Liz Tolsma



Passionate might best describe Liz. She's passionate about her writing, about her family, and about God. She started on her publication journey in 2011 and is so blessed that she gets to work at her dream job every day. She loves nothing better than settling into her comfy office chair at the big desk her husband built for her and letting her imagination go crazy.

She also loves editing, especially helping new authors hone their skills and start on their own publication journeys. She has a passion for seeing others succeed in this business. There is always room for more well-written books.


Follow Liz on social media & sign up for her newsletter!






A Note from Liz

Thank you for reading *The Silver Shadow* as part of your book club. I hope you enjoyed the story. I love taking little known history and letting my imagination take over. *The Silver Shadow* was real, though the papers in Denver dubbed him *The Capitol Hill Thug* because most of his crimes took place in the Capitol Hill section of the city. This was especially fun to write because there isn't much information out there today about this forgotten string of crimes. Why were they forgotten? No one really knows. Perhaps because they were perpetrated against women? Perhaps because most of women survived? The remains the *Silver Shadow's* mystery.




I always learn a little something from my characters as I write. Polly Blythe is a strong woman who knows her own mind. Sometimes, however, she relies too much on herself. What a good reminder to me as I penned this story that my reliance should always be on God. I've walked through my share of joys and trials in this life, and I know I couldn't have survived any of them without his faithfulness to me. Sometimes it takes the hard times to remind me of that. I pray that each of you will find a message of hope and encouragement from *The Silver Shadow*.



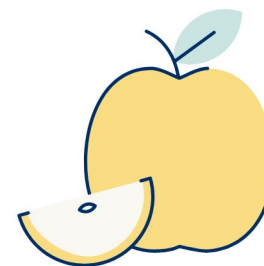
I've put together this book club kit to aid you in your discussion of the story. You'll find questions about the novel, a fun game, a recipe for apple bread you might enjoy eating while you discuss, and more.

I'd love to be there in person with you, but I know that's not always possible. If you'd like to have me come virtually, let's arrange that. Please contact me, and we can get it set up. If you're in Wisconsin or Illinois, I might be able to come to you. Contact me and let's find out if we can make it work.

Many blessings,
Liz



Apple Bread Recipe

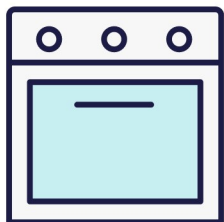


1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 cups flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups apples

Crumb mixture


1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons cold butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream butter and sugar. Dissolve baking soda in lemon juice and add to butter mixture. Mix in eggs and vanilla. Add flour and salt. Gently fold in apples. Mix crumb ingredients, cutting in butter. Spoon half of the batter into a greased loaf pan. Sprinkle with half of the crumb mixture. Repeat. Press crumbs into batter. Bake for 1 hour, 15 minutes. Makes 1 loaf.






Discussion Questions

1. When Pa sent the letter to Polly, she openly defied him and refused to return home. What would you have done if you had received a letter like that from your father?
 2. Why don't the police take Polly seriously when she first goes to them with her suspicions about the Silver Shadow? What could she have done differently at that point to persuade them to listen to her?
 3. Do you think Polly always acted wisely? If she had, would she have been successful in solving the case?
 4. Amelia takes a liking to Polly right away even though Polly is far below her social class. Why do you think that is? What unlikely friendships have you formed?
 5. Edwin had to let go of his guilt over his father's death and trust that he had done everything he could. He needed God's mercy. Is there something in your life right now you need God's mercy for? Go to him and ask him to forgive you and be gracious to you.
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Discussion Questions

6. Who did you believe was the Silver Shadow? What clues lead you to that conclusions? Were you surprised by who the Silver Shadow turned out to be?




7. The Silver Shadow had a scathing hatred for all women because of what his wife did to him. Was he justified in his hatred? How should he have handled the situation with his wife? How would someone like the Silver Shadow be treated today?



8. What did you think of the chief of detectives? Why was he finally convinced to try to solve the case?

9. How was Polly different at the end of the book than at the beginning? How was Edwin different at the end of the book versus the beginning?

10. What admirable traits did Polly have? What flaws did she have? What admirable traits did Edwin have? What flaws did he have?



Which character are you?

1. You have a free afternoon. You would rather spend it
 - a. Hanging out with your friends.
 - b. Sitting in the library reading a good book.
2. As a child, when your mother told you to go clean your room, you
 - a. Did your own thing first and then *maybe* got around to it.
 - b. Did so right away and made it spotless.
3. Your school report cards always said
 - a. That you talked too much.
 - b. That you were a conscientious student.
4. Your dream vacation would be
 - a. The beach.
 - b. The mountains.
5. When picking out what to wear, you go with
 - a. The one that's the most professional.
 - b. The one that's handiest in the closet.

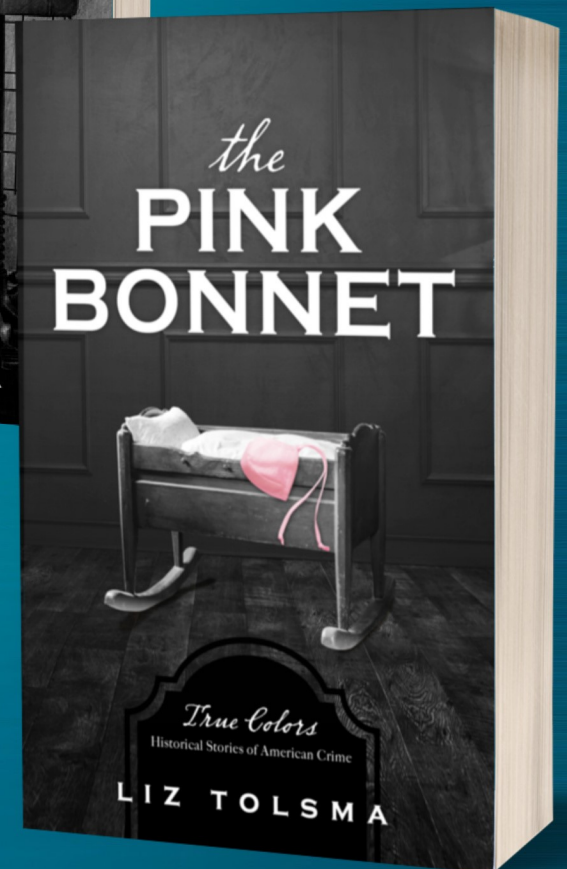
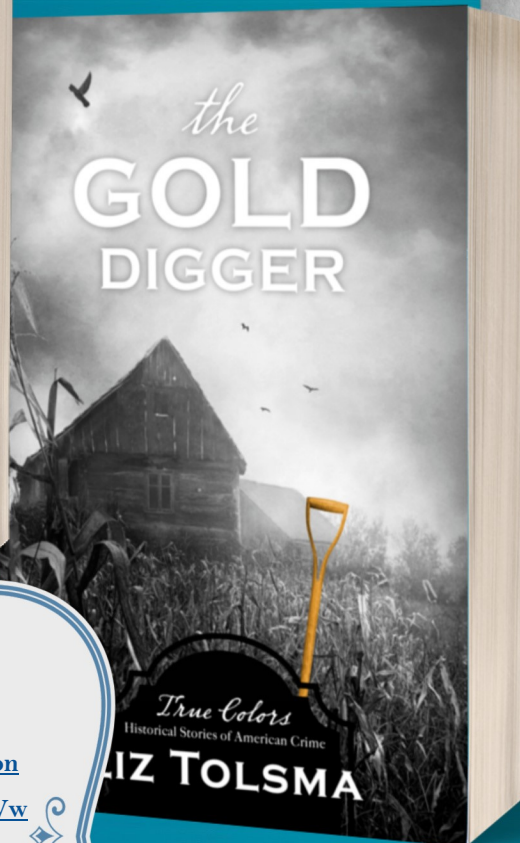
Which character are you?

6. Everybody makes a bad impression from time to time. Once or twice, someone who just met you thought you were
 - a. Boastful
 - b. Self-righteous
7. But once people get to know you, they think you're
 - a. Loyal.
 - b. Hard working.
8. You'd be lost without your
 - a. Computer. You never know when you might be struck with an awesome idea you have to write down.
 - b. Your phone. You never know when someone important might call or text.
9. An opportunity you've been waiting for presents itself. You
 - a. Jump in with both feet.
 - b. Think it through and contemplate it for a few days.

Mostly A's: You and Polly would be great friends.

Mostly B's: You and Edwin would get along very well.

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Coming Next!

Photojournalist Nellie Wilkerson has spent the war years in London taking pictures of mother's waiting in line to buy milk – and she's bored. When an opportunity to go to France immediately after D-day presents itself, she jumps at the chance. The only problem is that she doesn't have permission from the U.S. Army to be there, and she finds herself lost and alone in the French countryside.

Jean-Paul Breslau has been working with the maquis for several years, arranging pick-ups of Allied-dropped weapons, taking care of Jews in hiding, and smuggling people over the border to Switzerland. When he comes upon Nellie, getting her back to the Allies isn't as easy as it looks. Especially not when they stumble on a child with Down syndrome who has survived a horrific German genocide.

In a race against time, Nellie and Jean-Paul must get not only one child but three into neutral territory before his past catches up with them and puts them all in grave danger.

