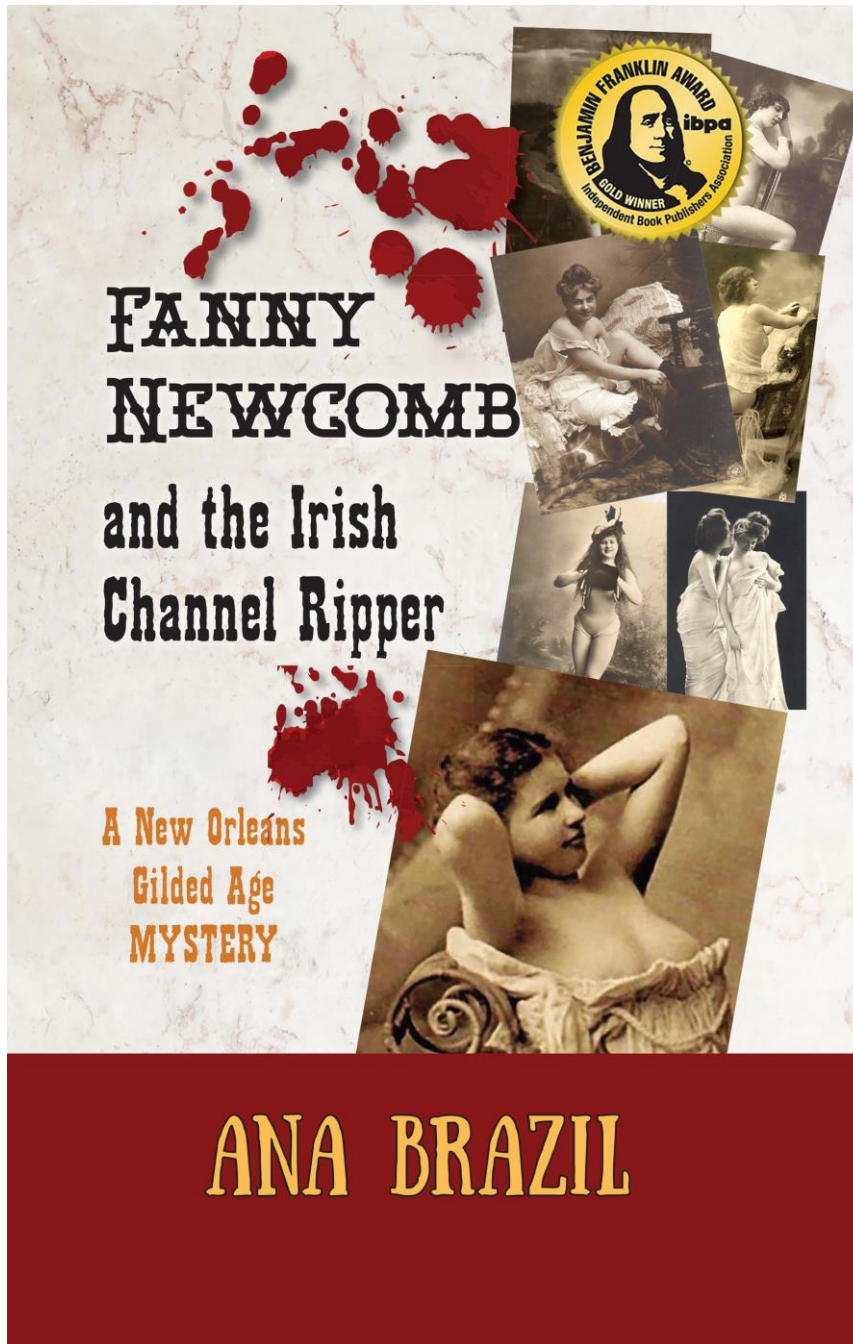


Discussion Questions for *Fannie Newcomb and the Irish Channel Ripper*

SPOILERS AHEAD, SO READERS BEWARE!



1. New Orleans celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018! Do you have a favorite place in New Orleans? A building, shop, church, street, view, park, or cemetery that you've loved over the years? Or a place—historic or not—that you'd really like to visit?
2. Newspaper reporter Clarence Hallway loves a big, big supper; what's your favorite New Orleans or Southern dish?
3. Jack the Ripper killed five prostitutes in London's Whitechapel slums in the summer and fall of 1888, and then he seemed to vanish into thin air. Do you think it's possible that Jack the Ripper caught a steamship to America and began attacking women again? Why do you think his story continues to fascinate readers?
4. Sylvia Giddings launched the Wisdom Hall Settlement House to educate and help new Irish and German immigrants to New Orleans. Did any of your immigrant relatives have an institution – church, fraternal group, etc.—that helped them adjust to a new country?
5. Fanny, Sylvia and Olive are all part of a socio-economic class that likely wouldn't have had jobs in this time period. Which of their jobs surprised you most?
6. Fanny, Sylvia, and Olive are all sturdy women with strong points of view. Did their personalities and points of view hinder as well as help them?
7. How did you feel about Fanny giving Daniel Crenshaw credit for exposing the Irish Channel Ripper?
8. Beyond solving Nora's murder, what do you think Fanny and Daniel Crenshaw have in common?
9. Would Fanny or Lawrence be content if they marry each other?
10. Was Nora a heroine? A victim? Or both?
11. What do you think happens to Millie and Deirdre? Does Mrs. O'Sullivan really allow them to join Fanny's classes at Wisdom Hall?
12. If you could invite one of the book's characters to join your book club, who would you invite? And why?
13. If you were casting Fanny Newcomb as a movie, which actresses would portray Fanny, Olive, and Sylvia? How about actors for the parts of Lawrence and Daniel or Gabriel and Terence Boylan?
14. Cousin Charlotte gets to dress up in one of her most fashionable Parisian *ensembles*. What were some of your favorite period details in the story?
15. As they search for clues, Fanny, Sylvia, and Olive investigate all over New Orleans...including the Irish Channel, Metairie Cemetery, and Canal and Basin Streets. Did you have a favorite locale in the story?
16. ***Fanny Newcomb and the Irish Channel Ripper*** has been called "*Steel Magnolias circa 1889*". Do Fanny, Olive, and Sylvia really have the same strength and resilience celebrated by M'Lynn, Truvy, and Shelby in the *Steel Magnolias* movie? What makes a strong woman in any century?