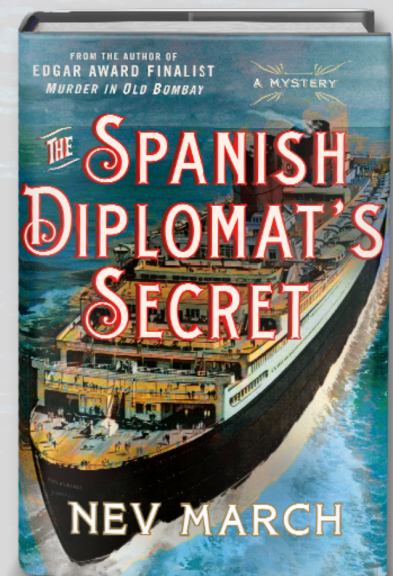


The Spanish Diplomat's Secret Discussion Questions

1. What is the central theme of the novel? How does Captain Jim think about justice and those who break the law at the beginning of the voyage, and how does this change at the end?
2. What is Jim keeping from Diana, and why? What is she hiding from him? Why? How do these secrets cause an invisible rift as the novel opens?
3. Does the relationship between Captain Jim and Diana change over the story? How does Jim's seasickness change their partnership dynamic?
4. How does this investigation impact Captain Jim, and Diana? What about their relationship?
5. Captain Jim thinks differently compared to Diana. How do their talents differ? Do they complement each other?
6. Do cultural superstitions play a role in this story? Does Jim's midnight assault impact his natural skepticism?
7. What are the parallels between Dora and Alice? Both have been harmed. How are their responses different?
8. In what way does race play a role in Captain Jim's investigation?
9. Which characters surprised you the most? What do you think of Dona Josefina and Mrs. Barlow in the early part of the book. How did your opinion of them change?
10. Does the use of humor impact the novel?
11. Is Alice a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
12. How does your opinion of Don Juan, the victim, change when you learn his secret?
13. What role does chance play in the series of events at the opening of this novel. Does it play a role at the end?
14. What role does the ticking clock play? How does the impending arrival at Liverpool affect Jim's investigation?



MINOTAUR BOOKS