

MURDER IN OLD BOMBAY

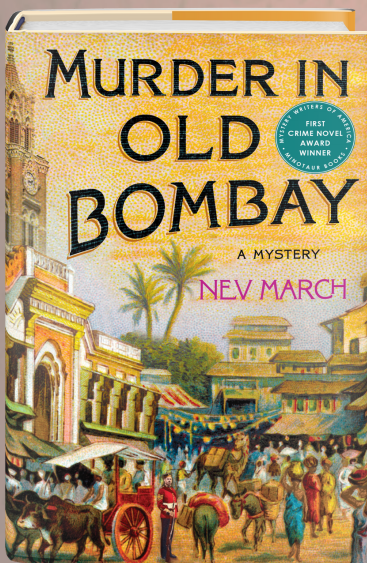
by Nev March

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In 1892 Bombay is the heart of British India, when two young brides die under mysterious circumstances. Invaliding out of the army, Captain James Agnihotri resolves to help this troubled family by solving the case of *Murder in Old Bombay*.

Questions for discussion:

1. Captain Jim travels through Lahore to Simla, and then on to find a witness in Pathankot. Later he visits Poona and then Ranjipoot. Which of these adventures resonated with you—and why? How does his journey to Simla change the personal stakes for him?
2. Why is Captain Jim's visit to Pathankot important? How does it change the course of his investigation? In what way does the 'deal' he strikes with General Greer impact the end of the novel? Could Captain Jim have 'won the girl' without taking that risk?
3. What role do Victorian morals play in this novel? Does Captain Jim's argument with Diana reveal the distance between them? How does Diana's education in Victorian England influence her? How does it impact her ability to reveal secrets? How does the tragedy on the ship alter her resolve? What role does she play at the end of the investigation?



4. Captain Jim consistently underestimates women—how do women in the book surprise him? How does the author point out the unfairness of society's treatment of women?
5. How does Captain Jim evolve during this story—which aspect of him becomes more dominant as the tale progresses, the soldier, the man seeking a family or the romantic hero? Why?



MINOTAUR BOOKS

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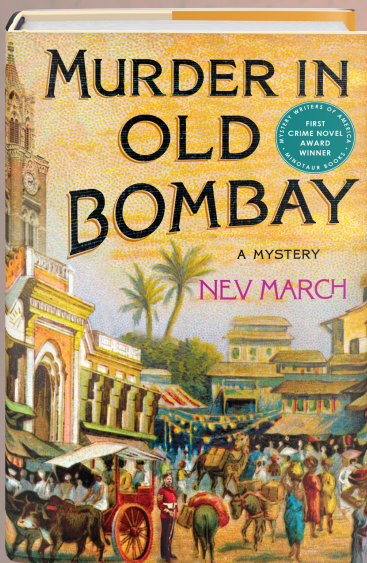
Questions for discussion, continued:

6. Because of his decision to help Adi solve the murder of his wife and sister, Captain Jim steps into the middle of a feud. How does the fact that India is a divided land create a smokescreen for the villains? What is the real motivation of the villains? Although Akbar claims to seek a noble goal—his actions depict his true motives. How do his business dealings contradict his stated objectives?

7. How are British administrators represented in this novel? Are they positively depicted, or seen as the enemy? Are the subcultures of India portrayed in a positive or negative light, or both? Which aspects of Indian society are more endearing?

8. Captain Jim starts out as an invalid. How does his health change during his adventures? When it culminates in a crisis on the clock tower gallery, does this change how we view Diana?

9. How does the younger victim Pilloo's secret come close to bringing down the Framji family? How does it lead to her own death?



10. *Murder in Old Bombay* combines many different genres: historical fiction, romance, mystery, and thriller to name a few. Which of these genres felt the most dominant to you? How did the way they are woven together enhance the story?

11. How is India a character in this novel? How do the religions and festivals of India play a role in the narrative? What aspect did you find most tragic?

