

THE IMMACULATE

WWW.MARIANMCMAHONSTANLEY.COM

"A taut, character-rich whodunit."

—Hallie Ephron, *NY Times*
Best-Selling Author



SOME BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *THE IMMACULATE*

1. *The Immaculate* builds on a number of underlying themes – embedded traditional power, trust and betrayal, loyalty and courage. What theme spoke most strongly to you in the story?
2. A number of characters in the book show great courage – the murder victim Sister Mary Aurelius, Francie Sullivan, Bill Kenneally and, of course, Rosaria herself. Which of their acts of courage were you most taken by?
3. Rosaria left her old neighborhood years ago for a very different kind of life. How would you describe her life choices prior to and during the period covered by the book?
4. Rosaria's friendship with Nuncie DiStephano is long and deep. How would you characterize their relationship and in what ways do they complement one another?
5. Malachy Sullivan was in many ways a gifted man. What do you think motivated the decisions he made in his life and what do you see in the relationships he had with his wife Francie, with Becca Linsky and even Maisie? Did any of this surprise you?
6. Francie Sullivan makes a dramatic and dangerous decision in the story. What do you think finally leads her to make the move she does?
7. Rosaria and Detective Leo Gelenian are sometimes adversaries, sometimes partners. How do you see that relationship evolving in the story - do they make each other grow in different ways?
8. Monsignor McDermott is a morally compromised man in a number of respects, but he truly loves Malachy Sullivan. Do you see that dynamic as paternal, fraternal, collegial, predatory, dependent, or all of the above?
9. Father Hanrahan, the recovering alcoholic priest shouldering much of the burden of the parish while the Monsignor pursues other interests – what purpose does the presence of this old priest play in the story?
10. This series of events represents a dramatic chapter in Rosaria's life. How do you see things rolling out now? What does she do next and is there any room in her life for someone like Solly Belkin?
11. The story takes a number of stunning turns – which was most surprising to you?
12. *The Immaculate* is a work of fiction inspired by actual events in recent history. The Church and the community have evolved since then, but do you think these things could happen again and why?

WWW.MARIANMCMAHONSTANLEY.COM