
Martin County Library System Book Discussion Kit:

The Maid by Nita Prose

Included in the Kit:

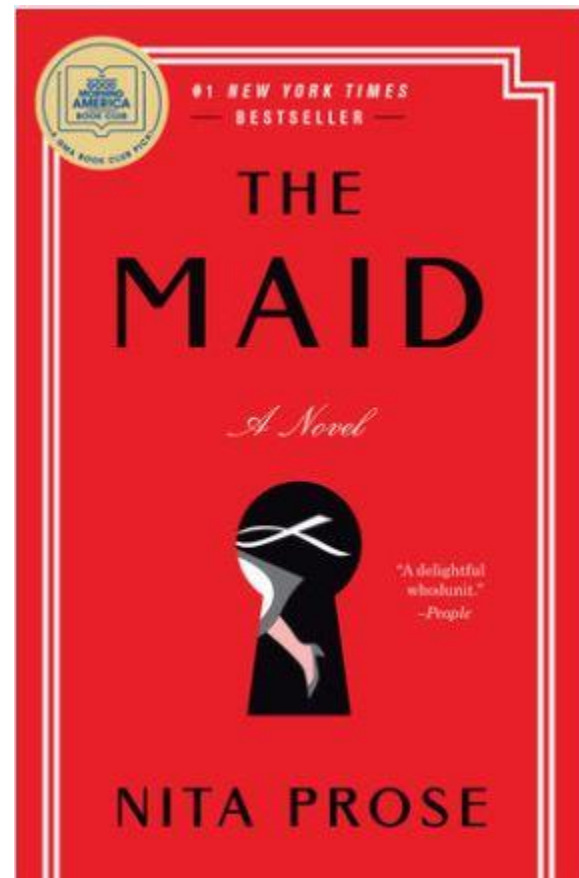
- [Book summary](#)
- [Author biography](#)
- [Discussion questions](#)
- [Recipe suggestions](#)

Book Summary:

“I am your maid. I know so much about you. But when it comes down to it: what is it that you know about me?”

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misinterprets the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by.

Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has had to navigate life’s complexities all by herself. No matter—she throws herself with gusto into her work as a hotel maid. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for the job. She delights in donning her crisp uniform each morning, stocking her cart with miniature soaps and



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bottles, and returning guest rooms at the Regency Grand Hotel to a state of perfection.

But Molly's orderly life is turned on its head the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself very dead in his bed. Before she knows what's happening, Molly's unusual demeanor has the police targeting her as their lead suspect. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

A *Clue*-like, locked-room mystery and a heartwarming journey of the spirit, *The Maid* explores what it means to be the same as everyone else and yet entirely different—and reveals that all mysteries can be solved through connection to the human heart.

Source: Author's website (<https://www.nitaprose.com/>)



The Maid by Nita Prose

Meet the Author:

Nita Prose is a writer and longtime editor. Her debut novel, *The Maid*, has sold more than 1 million copies worldwide and was published in over forty countries in more than thirty-five languages. A #1 *New York Times* bestseller and a Good Morning America Book Club pick, *The Maid* won the Ned Kelly Award for International Crime Fiction and was an Edgar Award finalist. Her second novel, *The Mystery Guest*, publishes in November 2023 in North America (January 2024 in the UK). Prose lives in Toronto, Canada, in a house that is moderately clean.



Source: Madeleine Milburn Literary, TV & Film Agency
(<https://www.madeleinemilburn.co.uk/mm-authors/nita-prose/>)



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Discussion Questions:

1. What did you think of Molly as a character? What made her believable to you? What were your feelings about the revelations in the epilogue about Molly's involvement in the case?
2. Gran has a number of iconic sayings that Molly relies on to get her through both very happy and very difficult situations. What were some of your favorites?
3. Gran and Molly believe in the three E's—Etiquette, Elocution, and Erudition. Is there a moment in the novel where Molly's application of these three values stood out to you? If you had to pick just one of these, which would you say is the most important?
4. Molly says she is "blessed with this ability—to clean my mind as I would a room. I picture offensive people or recall uncomfortable moments, and I wipe them away." What did you make of some of the moments when Molly's memories came creeping back in? Did some of her darker memories, when she finally revealed them, surprise you? Did you understand why she'd want to "wipe them away"?
5. Molly is aware that others tend to make assumptions about her based on her demeanor and her position as a maid. This is a fact that she uses to her advantage during her interrogation by saying, "I'm a hotel maid. Who would ever want to talk to me?" when asked about her friendship with Giselle. The detective easily accepts this answer and lets Molly go free, which feels like a bittersweet victory. What did you think of this exchange? What does it suggest about power dynamics, and about the assumptions people tend to make about others who are different from themselves?
6. Molly has a very distinct sense of what is right and wrong, but sometimes this takes the form of her Gran's "Robin Hood" morality, in which her sense of fairness and justice can override what others may traditionally consider "right" or "wrong." Do you think this willingness to help others is brave or naive? What would you do in her situation?





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7. Despite the danger to his family and himself, Juan Manuel decides to help Molly in the end. While everything ends up okay, each one of Molly's allies risks something to help her. What do you think influenced each of their decisions?
8. What were some of your takeaways from the book? What message do you think the author was trying to convey?

Source: Random House Publisher website-Book Club Kit
(<https://www.randomhousebooks.com/>)



Recipes:

Egg & Cress Club Sandwich

- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp mayonnaise
- 3 slices bread
- a little butter
- ½ carton of cress
- 2-3 slices of tomato or a lettuce leaf and a slice of ham or cheese
- crisps, to serve



Bring a pan of water to the boil and carefully lower in the eggs. Cook for 6 mins, then cool under running water until they can be peeled. Peel the eggs, then leave to cool completely. Mash or chop the eggs, then mix with 1½ tbsp mayonnaise and some seasoning, if you like. Toast the bread. Lay one slice of bread on a board. Butter it, then spread on three quarters of the egg and scatter over the cress. Add another slice of toast and gently spread on the remaining mayo. Add the tomato or lettuce and ham or cheese (or whichever combination you prefer). Dot the remaining egg over the top, spread gently, then top with the final piece of toast. Cut the crusts off if you like, then gently cut the sandwich into four quarters, being careful not to squash out the egg. Skewer each sandwich with a sandwich pick. Serve with crisps.

Source: BBC Goodfood Blog
(<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/egg-cress-club-sandwich>)

Peppermint Tea Mocktail

- 2 Peppermint teabags
- 1 Cup boiling water
- 2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoon honey optional
- Soda water

Place the teabags, boiling water and honey (if using) in a jug and brew according to packet instructions. Remove the teabags and chill the tea in the fridge. Zest and juice the lemon.



Place chilled tea, lemon zest and lemon juice in a jug. Stir well. Divide between 2 ice filled glasses and top with soda water. Garnish with extra lemon slices and serve.

Source: The Mindful Mocktail
(<https://mindfulmocktail.com/tea-mocktail-recipe/>)

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