Book Club

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**39 WINKS**A Maggie O’Malley Mystery

Former pharmaceutical researcher Maggie O’Malley is losing sleep. Constantine’s Aunt Polly is a multitasking sleepwalker who prepares meals, folds laundry and, one winter night, stumbles across her husband with his throat slit.

It’s a rude and gruesome awakening that’s upsetting to Aunt Polly. And interesting to the police.

Maggie and Constantine work to uncover who killed the cosmetic surgery mogul and why. As they dig into the lives of those who knew him best, they discover that doctoring perception has deadly side effects.

A gripping page-turner with more twists than a surgeon’s suture, *39 Winks* is a tale of lies, betrayals and greed that will keep you up at night—and looking over your shoulder.

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**Author Bio**

When Kathleen Valenti isn’t writing page-turning mysteries that combine humor and suspense, she works as a nationally award-winning advertising copywriter. *39 Winks* is the second of the Maggie O’Malley mystery series and follows her Agatha- and Lefty-nominated debut mystery, *Protocol*. Kathleen lives in Oregon with her family where she pretends to enjoy running.

Learn more at [www.kathleenvalenti.com](http://www.kathleenvalenti.com).

**The Maggie O’Malley Mystery Series:**
PROTOCOL (#1)
39 WINKS (#2)
AS DIRECTED (#3—coming March, 2019)

 **Author Appearance Opportunities:**

• Skype or FaceTime
• Conference Call
• Facebook Live
 **CONTACT:**valenti.kathy@gmail.com

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The book begins with new beginnings for Maggie. She’s gone from the job of her dreams in pharmaceutical development to working in a lingerie shop for an abusive woman to being unemployed. Do these transitions make Maggie more open to delving into Howard’s murder? Why or why not?
2. Sleepwalking is a central theme in 39 WINKS. Are you a sleepwalker, or have you known one?
3. Are you familiar with the concept of “sleep crime”? If so, what do you know about the phenomenon?
4. What does the opening scene, in which Polly finds Howard dead in his Life cereal, tell us about him?
5. How does Howard’s career as a cosmetic surgeon factor into his personality? What about the book as a whole?
6. What flaw propels Maggie—and others—into trouble? What do you think drives her actions?
7. Have you heard of cases in which people lead double lives? How might that secret make someone willing to do anything to prevent it from being revealed?
8. Would you be surprised to know that some elements in this book were inspired by real-life events?
9. Can you guess which elements were based on real events?
10. How does Maggie change through the course of the book? If you’ve read PROTOCOL, how has Maggie changed from that book to this one?
11. What role does Levon Petrosian play in Maggie’s life, beyond that of town druggist?
12. Please describe Maggie and Constantine’s relationship.
13. Which character would you most like to have over for dinner? Why?
14. If this book were a movie, who would play Maggie? How about Constantine, Polly or Howard?
15. What do you hope is next for Maggie? Constantine?

**Menu:**

Petrosian’s Eggs with Truffle Oil

Pumpkin Bread (with extra nutmeg, of course)

Café au lait

Nazook

Goodies and Swag: The author has oodles of Protocol pens that look like syringes and a limited number of book bags with Maggie O’Malley Mysteries printed on them.

**Top Critical Reviews:**

Maggie O’Malley will not be cowered, stopped, or out-smarted as she sets out to prove the innocence of a friend facing a murder charge. Medicine gone terribly wrong, social injustice, and betrayal does not deter her relentless search for the truth. *39 Winks* has is all: characters, plot, pace—from the very first line to the spectacular conclusion.

Patricia Gussin

*New York Times* Best-selling author of *Come Home*

With twists you won't see coming, Maggie O'Malley and 39 Winks are sure to keep you up all night!
USA Today Bestselling Author Julie Mulhern

39 WINKS is a clever and twisty thriller that will grab you from the first sentence and keep you guessing until the very end.
Kathleen Barber, author of *Are You Sleeping*

A page-turner! Smart, fast-paced and surprising.
 – Hank Phillippi Ryan, Mary Higgins Clark AwardWinner, Author of Say No More

Medicine and murder come together in Kathleen Valenti’s page-turning debut, Protocol, a twisty and breathless exploration of big Pharma and the drugs that can both save...and kill. This one will have you up all night following Maggie O’Malley on her search for the truth.
 – Maggie Barbieri, Author of the Murder 101 Mystery Series

Gutsy and loyal, Maggie O’Malley finds herself plunged into the corrupt and chilling world of big pharmaceuticals where trusting the wrong person could prove as deadly as an experimental drug side effect. With a page-turner debut like Protocol, I can’t wait to see what Valenti cooks up for us next!
– Annette Dashofy, USA Today Bestselling author of the Zoe Chambers Mysteries

**About the Publisher:**

Henery Press is a publisher of award-winning books in the mystery/suspense genre focused on engaging stories with sharp twists and lively characters. To find additional book club selections, learn more about this author, and view our entire catalog, please visit us at henerypress.com. Follow us on Facebook.com/HeneryPress or Twitter (@HeneryPress).