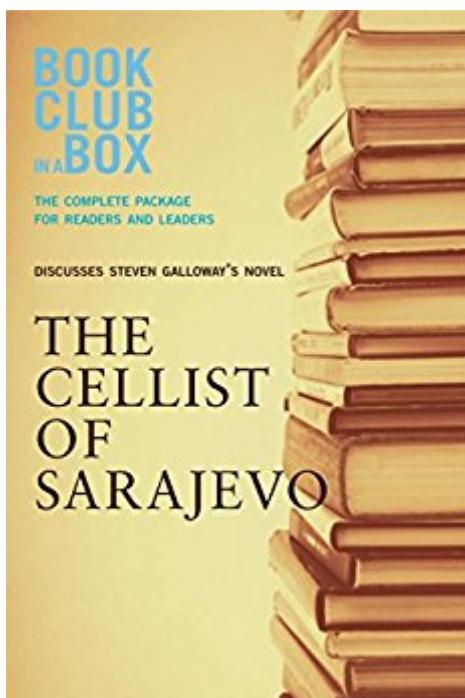


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Bookclub-in-a-Box Discusses The Cellist Of Sarajevo, By Steven Galloway: A Novel Notes Mini-Guide For Readers And Leaders



Synopsis

Bookclub-in-a-Box literary discussion guides offer interpretations and analysis of the themes, symbols, and writing styles of your favorite contemporary novels. Each guide also includes a handy plot synopsis, the author's biographical information, discussion questions, and more. They are ideal for use by book club members, teachers, students, and literature lovers.

About The Cellist of Sarajevo: In a city under siege, four people whose lives have been upended are ultimately reminded of what it is to be human. From his window, a musician sees twenty-two of his friends and neighbors waiting in a breadline. Then, in a flash, they are killed by a mortar attack. In an act of defiance, the man picks up his cello and decides to play at the site of the shelling for twenty-two days, honoring their memory. Elsewhere, a young man leaves home to collect drinking water for his family and, in the face of danger, must weigh the value of generosity against selfish survivalism. A third man, older, sets off in search of bread and distraction and instead runs into a long-ago friend who reminds him of the city he thought he had lost, and the man he once was. As both men are drawn into the orbit of cello music, a fourth character—“a young woman, a sniper”—holds the fate of the cellist in her hands. As she protects him with her life, her own army prepares to challenge the kind of person she has become.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I very much liked this largely fictional narrative inspired by the siege of Sarajevo and centered on the lives and especially the thoughts of three people in that oppressive, violent and very threatening setting. A cellist witnesses the deaths of 22 people by a mortar, and he responds by playing Albinoni's adagio at the site daily for 22 days but is otherwise silent. The book follows two men and their ruminations in their daily quiet struggle to survive on an almost vegetative level. It also follows a young woman under the pseudonym of Arrow in her dedication to shooting only enemy soldiers and in her assignment to track and kill the enemy sniper assigned to assassinate the cellist. In a setting of relative hopelessness the three quietly evolve and develop greater senses of their selves and their dignity. The story is relatively short and beautifully written. It describes two men in their almost vegetative survival, and a young woman sniper with the pseudonym of arrow who is assigned to protect

I loved how well it was written. Third person and with full details which captivated my attention. I had a virtual experience with each chapter I read and for each of the writer's characters. Well done!

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