

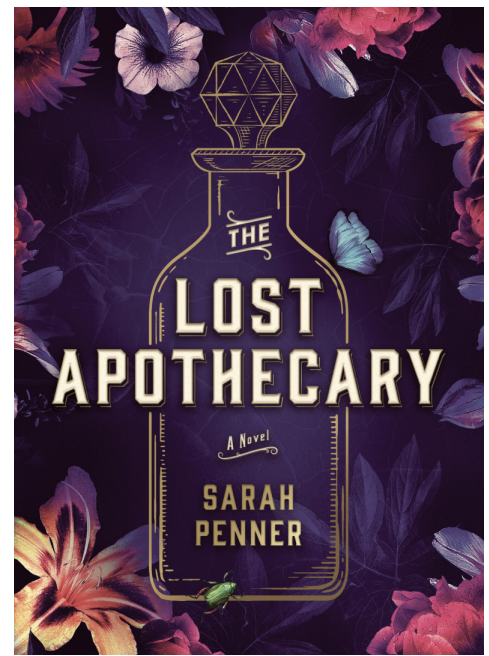


Sarah Penner	
(AUTHOR)	
The Lost Apothecary	
(BOOK TITLE)	
DATE	TIME
08 MAR 2022	8:00PM ET

HOLLY FURTICK
Book Club!

HOLLY FURTICK

Book Club!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Degree in finance
- Worked in corporate America for 13 years
- Now - Full time writer
- Debut Author
- Book was inspired by a discovery she made (while mudlarking) in London

ABOUT THE BOOK

• The novel toggles between an 18th-century and present-day timeline, also alternating between the first-person narration of three characters. It follows the stories of apothecary Nella Clavinger, young housemaid Eliza Fanning, and London tourist Caroline Parcewell. All three stories, in their convergent and divergent points, speak to the themes of betrayal, feminine power, and secrecy.

SETTING:

- London, England

THEMES

- Betrayal
- The intricacies of female relationships
- Secrecy

MAIN CHARACTERS

- Nella Clavinger - Apothecary owner
- Frederick - Nella's former love
- Rissa - Frederick's wife that he claimed was his sister who needed medicine

- Eliza Fanning - 12-year-old working in the Amwell house
- Mrs. Amwell - Kind employer
- Thomson Amwell
- Tom Pepper - Books and Baubles; Eliza's friend and eventually her husband
- Ms. Allie Berkwell - Lord Clarence's mistress
- Lady Beatrice Clarence - Wanted to kill Allie; accidentally killed her husband instead
- Lord Clarence - Killed by his wife
- Sally - Cook and kitchen maid in the Amwell house
- Johanna - Former maid that Eliza thinks haunts her

MEMORABLE SCENES

- When Caroline found the vial mudlarking - pg 33
 - When Caroline met Gaynor and began developing a friendship - pg 55
 - The beetle gathering - pg 130
 - When James came to London and Caroline stayed at the hotel - pg 143
 - How Nella's vengeance and hate were destroying her from the inside out - pg 177
 - When Caroline broke into 3 Back Alley - pg 189
 - When Nella saw the imprint of the vile in the Thursday Bulletin - pg 209
 - When Eliza attempted to use Tincture to Reverse Bad Fortune. Ultimately, Eliza jumps from Blackfriar's bridge - pg 213
 - When Gaynor helped Caroline with the police - pg 245
 - The bridge scene with Eliza and Nella - pg 261
 - When Caroline realized that James had poisoned himself - pg 271
 - When Nella added Eliza to her book - pg 282
 - When Nella went back to the Amwell Estate and thought she saw Eliza's ghost but she was actually still alive - pg 290
 - When Caroline threw the vial back into the Thames - pg 300
 - The two ghosts on the beach at the end - pg 301
 - The author's note that women possibly actually did this in the time period of the book and they got away with it because of a lack of forensic technology.
- *Recipes and maps in the back of the book

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Hooked with the opening story of the egg. Does mudlarking sound fun to you?
- Favorite character?
- How did you feel about the idea of women poisoning their husbands?
- Do you think that Nella should have stood up to Lady Clarence?
- Were you shocked when the husband was poisoned??? I was shocked. This was the moment I knew I wanted to choose this for book club.
- Were you glad that Eliza lived?
- Do you think Caroline should have forgiven her husband?