

Kelle Z Riley: *The Cupcake Caper* — A Reading Group Guide

Warning! These questions contain MANY spoilers.

If you have not already read the book, do not read these questions.

1. In *The Cupcake Caper* a woman turns amateur sleuth when her boss is found murdered. The boss—a manipulative, not-so-nice guy, gave everyone, including Bree herself, reasons to want him gone.
 - a. Have you ever had a “bad boss” who made your life miserable?
 - b. How did you handle the situation?
 - c. How far do you think someone would go (in real life) to get free of a bad boss?
2. Norah Kingston tries to take her revenge on the boss by playing an uncomfortable prank on him.
 - a. Do you think Norah was justified?
 - b. Are pranks such as Norah’s an excusable reaction to bad treatment? Or should she have suffered some consequences for her actions?
 - c. What’s the worst prank you’ve played on anyone?
3. Dr. Bree Watson (excuse me, Mayfield-Watson) is a chemist. She thinks her analytical mind is an asset in solving the mystery.
 - a. Do you agree that being a scientist gives her an advantage?
 - b. Is Bree’s approach to solving the mystery what you expected from a scientist character?
 - c. Because the author is a Ph.D. chemist, Bree’s reactions are more “realistic” than the scientists on popular TV shows. Were you disappointed by the differences?
 - d. Scientists are often viewed as aloof and difficult to understand. Did you hold this view when beginning the story? Did your opinion change by the end of the story?
4. Matthew Tugood’s background indicates he’s served as a military man in difficult circumstances before becoming a spy. There are also hints of a mission failure that sent him into the private sector.
 - a. Do you think soldiers who’ve returned from war are changed by the experience?
 - b. When someone has spent years working in “dark places” do you think it is possible to return to a normal life?
 - c. One of Matthew’s goals is to catch “the one that got away” (Zed). Do you think it is wise to keep pursuing an elusive goal? Or should a person just “let it go?”
 - d. How do you think he will handle working with Bree on future missions?
5. Do you think Bree should have joined Matthew’s team? Would you?

