

Discussion Questions for *Sound Proof*, by Barbara Gregorich

1. How important was the setting of this novel to your enjoyment of it? One reviewer called the setting “refreshingly different.” Do you agree or disagree?
2. Mary Ployd is Frank’s employer, yet she seems to undermine his work at every turn. Discuss the ways in which she does this, and why. Do you feel that Mary undervalues Frank’s work? Or does she truly appreciate it? What is Frank’s attitude toward all of this?
3. What starts out as one crime to solve soon grows to three. Did this escalation increase or decrease your enjoyment of the book? What about the solutions to the crime(s)? Were you satisfied or dissatisfied?
4. Did you think this was a plot-driven mystery or a character-driven mystery? Discuss your reasons for thinking so. Do you have a preference for one kind over the other? Why?
5. How/why is it appropriate that Frank, who is not a musician, takes a drumming class? What happens to Frank because of the drumming class? Is he changed in any way?
6. Were there any surprises for you as the story progressed, or were you able to predict things before they occurred? How did this increase or decrease your enjoyment of the story? If you were surprised, by what were you surprised, and why?
7. In her review of *Sound Proof*, mystery writer Julia Buckley says “Dragovic narrates with the terseness of a man who is observing rather than talking: he is a watchful man until the moment is right, and then he is a man of action.” Do you agree or disagree? How does Frank’s narration add to or detract from your enjoyment of the story?
8. Discuss how and to what degree the physical features and atmosphere of the earth (trees, water, heat, storms, etc.) play a role in this mystery.
9. Which two or three characters did you like best? Why?
10. Some people hate any suggestion of romance in a detective story. Others don’t. How did you feel about the love subplots in this story? Did they enhance the story for you, or did they detract from your enjoyment of it?