

**"Some images should never be captured."**



Hi friends,

Thank you so much for choosing to read *STILL LIFE* for your book club choice this month. I truly hope you enjoyed Parker and Avery's story. You might have noticed this story is a bit darker than my previous books. I purposely chose to go this route to contrast the light and the dark, and to show how God is at work in the darkest of circumstances. He is our everlasting Father and is stronger than any struggle we face. My hope is that *STILL LIFE* provides comfort of these encouraging truths.

"My God is *my rock*, in whom I take *refuge*,  
*my shield* and the *horn of my salvation*.  
He is my *stronghold*, my *refuge* and my *savior* -  
from violent people *you save me.*"  
- 2 Samuel 22:3

I've included a number of resources for you to pick and choose from for your meeting. With photography playing such a pivotal role in STILL LIFE, I've included multiple ways you can turn your meeting into a photo-themed event. Below you'll find suggested discussion questions, an Italian feast taken directly from a scene in the book (see if you can find it), a true-false photography quiz, a location section to help you get a better feel for the setting, and much more.

I love connecting with readers and, especially with book clubs. Please feel free to contact me via [dani@danipettrey.com](mailto:dani@danipettrey.com) to see if I'm available to chat with your group (via FaceTime, Skype or over the phone). I send a giveaway package to each group I speak with, so one of your lucky members can win a prize. I also have bookmarks and promo items that I'm happy to send to each group that chooses STILL LIFE for their club.

Parker and Avery's was an intense story to write, but I thoroughly enjoyed watching them fall in love, and overcome the obstacles through Christ's strength.

I hope you and your group have a blessed evening.

In Christ,  
Dani

# *STILL LIFE Discussion Questions*

1. What scene resonated most with you, and why?
2. What surprised you most about the book?
3. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast for the main characters?
4. What was the significance of the title? If you could give the book a different title, what would that be?
5. What impression did you have of Baltimore before you read the book? In what ways did the descriptions of Fells Point match your impression? In what ways did the descriptions change your idea of what the city is like?
6. Avery must walk headfirst into her past and face those who ousted her from the art community. In what ways do you think she handled it well? What might she have done differently?
7. What professional photograph have you seen, either in person or through the media, that affected you deeply? What about it caused you to respond that way? How did you respond to the photos in *STILL LIFE* as you imagined them?
8. Do you think Parker and Avery would have ended up back together if it wasn't for Skylar going missing? What Bible verse speaks to God working through difficult circumstances to bring good?
9. What three words would you use to describe *STILL LIFE*?
10. What was your favorite moment in the book?
11. What lines did you especially appreciate or highlight in the book? Why?
12. If you could ask the author one question about the story, what would it be?
13. If you had to do a stakeout, what three items would you choose to have with you?
14. What are you most excited to see in the next book of the series?

# *A STILL LIFE Italian Feast*

## Spicy Italian Sausage Three-Cheese Lasagna

### Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons Olive Oil  
1/2 lb. spicy Italian sausage, casing removed  
1/2 lb. ground beef  
1 cup onions chopped  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
2 tsp dried oregano  
1/2 tsp dried, crushed red pepper  
1 28 ounces can of San Marzano crushed tomatoes with juice  
2 tsp sugar  
2/3 cups yellow pepper, diced  
1/2 cup fresh basil, chopped  
1 15-ounce container ricotta  
1 1/2 cups mozzarella, shredded  
3/4 cup parmesan  
1 egg  
No boil lasagna noodles  
Salt and Pepper (to taste)

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375.

Heat oil in pan. Add sausage, ground beef, onions, garlic, oregano, crushed red pepper, and diced yellow pepper. Add crushed tomatoes with juices, sugar, bay leaf and bring to a boil. Reduce heat on medium and simmer ten minutes, seasoning to taste with salt and pepper. In a bowl, add basil, three cheeses and blend or stir until blended but still chunky. Spread sauce, noodles, meat, cheese and repeat. The top layer noodles should be covered with sauce and cheese only. Cover with foil and bake for 40 minutes. Remove foil and bake for 5-10 more minutes or until cheese is bubbly and golden.

## Garlic Parmesan Knots

### Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons butter  
2 Tablespoons olive oil  
1 tsp dried oregano  
1 tsp dried rosemary  
1 tsp garlic powder  
1 can breadstick dough  
Parmesan cheese (to taste)

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375.  
Melt butter and oil.  
Remove from heat and stir in garlic powder, oregano and rosemary.  
Spray glass pan or cookie sheet.  
Shape breadsticks into knots.  
Pour butter and herb mixture over the knots.  
Bake 10-15 or until golden brown.  
Sprinkle with parmesan cheese.

## Italian Antipasti Salad

### Ingredients:

1 bag Italian blend salad mix  
3 slices salami (cut into bite-size pieces)  
3 slices provolone (cut into bite-size pieces)  
½ cup black, pitted olives  
1 cup cherry tomatoes  
½ cup banana peppers  
2 Tablespoons chopped, fresh basil  
1/3 cup chopped red onion

In a bowl, add all ingredients and toss. Top with Italian dressing or Olive Oil/Balsamic Vinegar dressing.

# Espresso-chocolate cannoli

## Ingredients:

Ready-made cannoli shells

2 ½ cups ricotta

¾ cup confectioners' sugar (plus extra for decoration)

½ tsp. vanilla extract

1 Tablespoon espresso powder

½ cup miniature chocolate chips

## Directions:

Mix all the ingredients except the chocolate chips together until smooth. Fill shells with the filling. Dip ends in chocolate chips. Sprinkle with extra confectioners' sugar.

Serve cannoli with equal parts espresso and sipping chocolate (Trader Joe's sells a great sipping chocolate mix).



# *Location, Location, Location*

## Getting to know the neighborhood.

The opening scene in *STILL LIFE* takes place in Fells Point, Baltimore. Fells Point is a historic waterfront neighborhood, established in 1763, in the southeastern area of Baltimore city in Maryland. It sits along the Baltimore Inner Harbor's north side. There are numerous shops, including antique stores, restaurants, coffee bars, music stores, and art galleries. Fells Point has a maritime past, which you can learn about in the fabulous Fells Point Maritime Museum, and there is an unmistakable air of it being a seafaring town. You can join me for a guided video tour on the Still Life page:

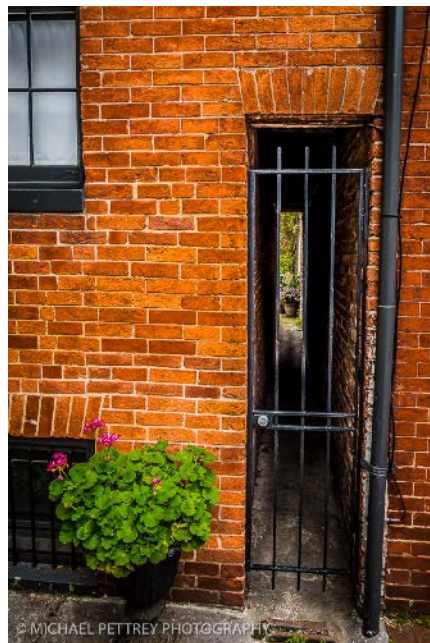
[DaniPettrey.com/still-life](http://DaniPettrey.com/still-life)

Here are a number of pictures my husband, Mike, and I have taken during our frequent visits to Fells Point. I hope they give you a great feel for *STILL LIFE*'s setting.

Fells Point has the coolest doors and mailboxes:



Fells Point has a number of gated alleyways, which you might recognize from a scene in STILL LIFE:





I adore Fells Point's cobblestone streets:



The lighthouse and harbor are a great reminder of the maritime culture and history of Fells Point:



# *True or False Photo History Quiz*

- 1) Modern photography began in the 1700's.
- 2) The first digital camera which captured images as a computerized file was invented in the 1990's.
- 3) Kodak's brownie camera was unveiled in 1900 and sold for \$1.00.
- 4) Today we snap as many pictures every five minutes as humanity as a whole did in the 1800's.
- 5) The first aerial photograph was taken from a hot air balloon.
- 6) The word "photography" originates from the Greek, meaning draw with light.
- 7) A photo of King Tutankhamun tomb was the first archaeological photograph ever taken.
- 8) The first ever described camera was a pin hole camera.

# ANSWERS - Photo History Quiz

- 1) False: Modern photography began in the 1820's with the first permanent photographs.
- 2) False: In 1988 Fuji DS-1P became the first digital camera that captured images as a computerized file.
- 3) True: The film cost \$ .15
- 4) False: Today we snap as many photos every two minutes as humanity as a whole did in the 1800's.
- 5) True: The first aerial photograph was taken by French photographer Gaspar Felix Tournachon in 1858. He took the photograph from a hot air balloon.
- 6) True.
- 7) False: A photo of Machu Picchu was the first archaeology photograph ever taken.
- 8) True: The first ever camera described in history was a pin hole camera dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century

# *Ideas for Hosting a Photo-Themed Book Club Meeting*

- Ask everyone to bring their favorite photo. Take time to go around the circle and have everyone share why that photograph is special to them.
- Ask if anyone has attended a portrait or photography showing, or art gallery. If so, where did they go, and did they enjoy it?
- Have photo props ready and take some fun and silly photos. You can download printable photo props on STILL LIFE's Book Page.
- Visit STILL LIFE's Book Page and watch the famous photograph slide show.

Find downloads and more Still Life fun at [DaniPettrey.com/still-life](http://DaniPettrey.com/still-life)

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I would love to see photos from your book club! If you share any photos on social media you can use the #StillLifePhoto and tag me @DaniPettrey.

