

Hidden in the Drizzle

A Book Club Discussion Guide

A suspect dies in police custody. His corpse vanishes from a locked morgue. Detective Arthur Crow rebuilds the case through physical clues, old files, and seven interlocking diary voices.

FORMAT	TONE	READING PROMISE
Dark adult mystery	Slow-burn and rain-soaked	Evidence before spectacle

How to use this guide

Use the first section before the solution, or pause there if your group is still reading. After everyone finishes, move to the reflection prompts. Ask readers to name an observation, page detail, or timeline point rather than only saying whether a twist surprised them.

These prompts are open questions, not a test with one approved answer. Keep the conversation spoiler-free until your group is ready.

Content note

The book page lists child kidnapping and abuse; animal harm and death; suicide and self-harm; family death; body handling; mental-illness stigma; and strong crime-scene descriptions. Check the group's comfort level before choosing the book.

Book by Atom Castle / hidden-in-the-drizzle-atom-castle.xudxud2026.chatgpt.site

Reading Questions

1. What makes a corpse disappearing from a locked morgue feel more difficult than an ordinary murder investigation?
2. Which matters more to you in an impossible crime: the condition of the room, the timeline, the witness statements, or the aftermath?
3. What do you expect a fair-play mystery to tell you early, and what can it reasonably keep uncertain?
4. How does Arthur Crow's habit of rebuilding a timeline change the way you read a scene?
5. When a diary and an official case file describe the same period, what kinds of differences would you look for?
6. Do multiple diary voices make a case feel more trustworthy, less trustworthy, or simply more complicated? Why?
7. What is the difference between a clue that is hidden and a clue that is withheld?
8. How does the rain-drowned city affect your sense of movement, visibility, and time?
9. Which character seems most likely to confuse an observation with an inference? What is the difference between the two?
10. What would count as a satisfying explanation for a locked-room problem: a clever trick, a physical process, a mistaken assumption, or a combination?
11. Does the dark adult tone make the puzzle feel more intimate, more threatening, or harder to trust?
12. What question about the case do you most want Arthur Crow to answer, and what evidence would you need to believe the answer?

Facilitator cue: ask each reader to bring one concrete observation to the meeting. Save guesses about the final mechanism for the group's agreed spoiler point.

Reflection Prompts

- 1. Which early detail gained a different meaning after you knew more about the case?
- 2. Did the book make you revise the difference between 'impossible' and 'unexplained'? Where?
- 3. How did the diary-and-file structure change your confidence in the timeline?
- 4. Which contradiction felt most useful as an investigative signal, even if it did not solve the case by itself?
- 5. Did Arthur Crow's patience make the investigation more convincing or slower than you prefer?
- 6. How does the book balance atmosphere with physical explanation? Where does the rain create pressure without becoming an excuse?
- 7. What does the locked morgue represent as a practical problem, apart from its emotional effect?
- 8. Which question would you ask a witness again if you were allowed one follow-up?
- 9. What makes an explanation feel earned in a fair-play tradition mystery?
- 10. Would you recommend the book to a reader who prefers classic deduction, modern crime fiction, or epistolary mysteries? Explain the match.

A 45-minute meeting plan

5 min	Each reader gives a one-sentence reaction without naming the solution.
10 min	Compare the strongest observations about the morgue, the files, and the diaries.
15 min	Discuss how the timeline changes as different kinds of evidence are weighed.
10 min	Talk about Arthur Crow as an investigator and whether his method suits the case.
5 min	Choose one unresolved-looking detail to revisit in the next meeting.

A Small Case-File Toolkit

If the group wants a separate logic exercise, download the free reader case file from the public site. It is a spoiler-free worksheet, not a substitute for the novel.

Reader case file download

Three questions to carry into the next mystery

- 1. What exactly did the witness observe?
- 2. Which physical or documentary boundary makes the crime look impossible?
- 3. What must the final explanation account for after the discovery?

Continue the case notes

Spoiler-free reader guide	Open the guide
Detective Arthur Crow guide	Open the guide
Book and retailer page	Open the book page

A good mystery discussion does not ask only whether someone guessed correctly. It asks what they noticed, what they assumed, and which piece of evidence changed the shape of the case.