

Discussion Guide for Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice by Elle Cosimano

1. The Finlay Donovan series is known for its humor and over-the-top situations. How did you find the balance between humor and suspense in this installment compared to the previous books in the series?
2. Finlay and Vero have a unique dynamic as friends, partners-in-crime, and caregiver/nanny. How does their relationship evolve throughout this book, and what do you think drives their loyalty to each other?
3. One of the recurring elements in the series is Finlay's romantic involvement with Nick, the hot cop. How does their relationship develop in this installment, and what challenges do they face as a couple?
4. Finlay grapples with feelings of impostor syndrome throughout the book, not only in her role as a writer but also in other aspects of her life. What are some examples of situations where Finlay experiences self-doubt or insecurity beyond her identity as an author? How do these instances contribute to the overarching theme of impostor syndrome in the story?
5. Women supporting and helping each other is a recurring theme in the narrative, demonstrated in various settings such as the strip club and Romelda's shop. Can you identify instances where women come together to assist one another throughout the story? How do these examples reinforce the theme of female solidarity and empowerment in the book?
6. In the climactic moments of the story, Finlay relies on the assistance of two formidable women, despite her uncertainties about their trustworthiness. Were you surprised by the women Finlay seeks help from? What factors do you think influenced their decisions to aid Finlay? How much of a risk is it for Finlay to involve them in her plans, and do you believe she anticipated their willingness to assist her?
7. Elle Cosimano introduces various shady characters, including loan sharks, mobsters, and corrupt cops, in this novel. Which character or group did you find the most intriguing, and why?
8. Throughout the series, Finlay often finds herself in improbable situations where she must navigate danger and deception. How does her character handle these challenges, and what strengths or weaknesses does she display in dealing with them?
9. Initially, Finlay opposes Vero's suggestion of resorting to violence to rescue Javi, preferring negotiation instead. At what point in the narrative does Finlay's stance on using force evolve? How does Finlay navigate between taking decisive action and using her words to resolve conflicts throughout the story?

10. Romelda the psychic makes predictions that seem to align with events in Finlay and Vero's journey. Do you think Romelda genuinely possesses the ability to foresee the future, or do you interpret her predictions as coincidences interpreted by Finlay and Vero after the fact?
11. When Javi reunites with Vero, he reveals his past decisions driven by shame and feelings of unworthiness. Which other characters in the story conceal their mistakes from loved ones, and how do their choices affect their relationships? Do you agree with their decisions to hide the truth? Why or why not?
12. The book blends elements of mystery, thriller, and comedy. Were there any specific scenes or moments that stood out to you as particularly suspenseful, humorous, or surprising?
13. This novel explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and the consequences of past actions. How do these themes manifest in the characters' choices and interactions throughout the story?
14. During the trip to Atlantic City, Finlay becomes aware of her mother Susan's marital troubles. Do you believe the trip had a positive impact on Susan? What insights into Susan's fears, regrets, or desires regarding her children's relationships can be gleaned from her interactions during the trip?
15. Steven undergoes a transformation while caring for the children in Atlantic City. What do you think he learns from this experience? How do his revelations about partnership and co-parenting contribute to his character development?
16. Nick shares his thoughts about trust and betrayal with Finlay, implying suspicions about her involvement in certain events. Why do you think Nick chooses not to confront Finlay directly despite his suspicions? What might his actions reveal about his feelings towards Finlay and their relationship?
17. Finlay's ex-husband, Steven, plays a significant role in this installment, accompanying them on their trip to Atlantic City. How does his presence impact Finlay's decisions and actions throughout the story, particularly in relation to her feelings of guilt and responsibility?
18. Vero's past and her connection to Javi add layers to her character and motivations. How does Vero's backstory influence her actions and decisions in "Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice," and how does her relationship with Javi evolve over the course of the book?
19. The book introduces new characters, such as Marco and Ike, who are connected to Vero's past and the central conflict of the story. How do these characters contribute to the unfolding mystery, and what insights do they provide into Vero's character development?

20. Family dynamics play a significant role in Finlay's life, especially with the unexpected presence of her ex-husband and her mother during their trip. How do these familial relationships influence Finlay's decisions and her sense of identity throughout the story?

21. Finlay's skills as a crime novelist often come into play as she navigates dangerous situations and devises plans to outsmart her adversaries. How does her background as a writer inform her approach to solving problems and uncovering the truth?

22. The setting of Atlantic City adds a unique backdrop to the story, with its seedy casinos and underworld connections. How does the setting contribute to the atmosphere and tone of the narrative, and what role does it play in shaping the characters' experiences and actions?

23. As the series progresses, the relationship between Finlay and Vero evolves. How has their dynamic grown and changed over the course of the books? Considering their individual romantic pursuits and personal developments, how do you envision their relationship evolving in the future?

24. This novel is filled with unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a suspenseful and action-packed climax. What were the most surprising or memorable moments for you, and how did they impact your perception of the characters and the overall storyline?

25. Without giving away spoilers, what are your expectations for the next installment in the Finlay Donovan series based on the events of this book? What unresolved questions or plotlines would you like to see addressed in future novels?