BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

"THE VODKA TRAIL" BY AA ABBOTT

SPOILER ALERT: these questions are best discussed after the book has been read.

- What do you think of the book's structure, with its short chapters and different viewpoints?
- The Vodka Trail focuses on the tension between Marty, a self-made Birmingham businessman, and young Kat, who bears a grudge against him. Kat feels Marty has capitalised on her parents' deaths, and she plans to use her boyfriend's money to take Marty's business away from him. Who were you rooting for - Kat or Marty? Why?
- Does Marty owe his business success to luck or hard work?
- Erik and Marty want different things from their research on darria. Do you think their business partnership has a future?
- Marty married for convenience rather than love. Do you think he is missing out?
- Do you feel Marty could have done anything differently?
- Should Kat have stayed with Ross?
- Kat and Marty are the main characters, but others get some airtime. Who was your favourite character, and why?
- When did you realise what Alana's plan was? Why do you think it took Davey so long?

- You may feel Marina escaped lightly. Although Marty made his contempt known to her, he didn't betray her secrets. Why do you think he was so considerate?
- Marty sells vodka, but loves his Birmingham- and Black Country-brewed real ales. Which do you prefer?
- If you could give one piece of advice to one character in the story, what would it be?
- As well as switching between viewpoints, the story's settings segued between Birmingham, London and the fictional former Soviet Union state of Bazakistan. What are your thoughts on the different settings?
- Have you been to Russia, or other former Soviet Union countries? Do you recognise elements in Bazakistan?
- Are there people, places or situations in the book you recognise from real life?
- The Vodka Trail is second in a series. Have you read any of the other books? Do you feel it works as a standalone story, as intended?
- Did you find the conclusion of the story satisfactory?