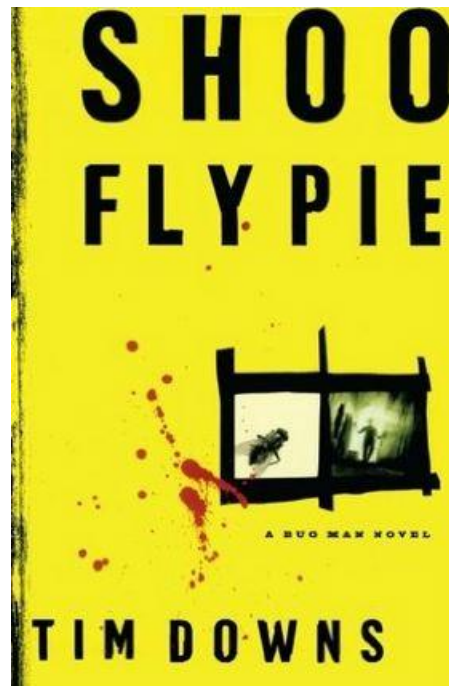


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Shoo Fly Pie

Tim Downs

About the Book

Shoo Fly Pie is the story of a woman on a search for the truth about the death of her longtime friend Jimmy. Growing up, Kathryn, Peter, Andy, and Jimmy were best friends, and unbeknownst to her, all three boys had fallen in love with her as they got older. Before all three men left for the military, Jimmy proposed to Kathryn, but she chose to spend the rest of her life with Andy instead.

While away at war, Andy dies, and Jimmy becomes addicted to cocaine. Peter takes it upon himself to care for the now grieving widow. When Jimmy dies, his death is deemed a suicide but

Kathryn knows deep down it can't be true; instead she suspects foul play. Kathryn hires a forensic entomologist named Nick, along with his assistant Teddy, who embark on a mission to uncover the truth about Jimmy's death. What they discover is beyond comprehension.

Discussion Guide

1. The beginning of the book is a flashback to the day Kathryn's father dies in a car accident. What do you think the significance of this flashback is?
2. Did you enjoy the book? Did you learn anything about forensic entomologists or insects in general? Do you think the facts in the book are accurate?
3. The book was set in 1999. Nick, the entomologist, states varied facts regarding forensic insects and their behaviors, including species of insects that lay their eggs on a decomposing body, the time it takes to lay eggs, and the location where eggs are laid. Do you think this entomological knowledge was portrayed accurately? Was it available during that time period? Can you think of any new knowledge that has been discovered since then that has not been included in this book?
4. Were you surprised by the ending of the story? In the beginning of the book would you have thought Peter was capable of the murders? Did your feelings about him change or did you always have a suspicion?
5. In Chapter One, Nick is describing the life cycle of a blow fly to a man. By this description he can determine how long this man's wife had been deceased. Prior to reading this book, were you aware that insects can be used in determining time of death, even place of death? Do you believe it is accurate? Why?
6. Do you like the title of the book? Why do you think the author chose this title? Do you think there could have been a better fitting title?
7. Nick is the type of person that keeps to himself and actually prefers insects over people, while Kathryn is more outgoing. How do you think Nick and Kathryn's personalities have changed throughout the story, if at all? Do you like Nick's personality and how he handles the investigation?
8. Kathryn was hesitant to believe that Peter, in order to finally be with her, killed Andy and supplied Jimmy with cocaine for years. Despite the mounting evidence that Nick

provided, Kathryn was still in disbelief. Do you think Kathryn would have believed Nick if it were not for Jimmy's journal?

9. What, if any, other avenues could have been used to solve Jimmy's murder if forensic entomology did not exist? Do you think it could have been solved otherwise? Do you think it would have taken longer?

10. When Jimmy's body was found, the coroner Mr. Wilkins did not conduct an autopsy. What do you make of his lack of duty? Do you think Mr. Wilkins knew Peter had murdered Jimmy and was subsequently assisting in a cover up? Had Peter perhaps threatened Mr. Wilkins?

11. Do you believe Peter's plan to kill Andy and Jimmy would've worked if Kathryn didn't hire Nick to discover the truth?