

Dear Readers,

This book came into being after I read an article in the local newspaper related to a dog-fighting ring that had been operating in East St. Louis until an undercover operation brought it to an end. The story stayed with me for some time, and I began to consider how it might fit into a novel. As I brainstormed possibilities, *On a City Street* came into being.

The novel has been honored with several awards. It was an Eric Hoffer Grand Prize Finalist, a semi-finalist for the Chatelaine Award for Romantic Fiction, and a semi-finalist in the Missouri Writers Guild Fiction category.

On a City Street tackled several difficult subjects including a troubled teenager, pet overpopulation, animal fighting, mental illness, and frayed personal relationships. I hope I handled them in a sensitive manner that resonated with you.

Thanks for choosing to read my book. I hope you find in it nuggets of truth and enough material for a lively and satisfying discussion. Enjoy the journey!

With warmest regards,

Pat



Discussion Questions for *On a City Street* (Printable)

1. After a betrayal, Carolyn leaves her home, friends, and family to start a new life. In your experience, is this the most effective way of working through a problem?
2. Carolyn faces difficulty convincing her clients to spay or neuter their animals, even though this is the ultimate solution to the problem of pet overpopulation and the plight of homeless animals. Can you think of any methods that might be successful in dealing with this issue?
3. Carolyn's first impressions of both Rio and Jonathan proved to be incorrect. Have you had the experience of learning a person was different from what you originally thought?
4. Starting a new project as Carolyn did with the clinic, is often challenging. Have you ever had a similar experience? How did it work out?
5. Do you think Carolyn made the right choice in becoming involved with Coby's problems?
6. Stella, the injured dog, brings attention to the vicious world of dog fighting, a problem that persists to this day. Do you feel we need stricter laws or stricter enforcement to curb such activities?
7. Although Carolyn left behind all the people who were important to her, she soon establishes a close relationship with her co-workers. Have you had colleagues who began to feel like family?
8. Were you surprised to learn that Rio was working in an undercover operation or did you suspect that he might not be who he first presented himself to be?
9. Fun final question: If this book was turned into a movie, who would play the main characters?



On a City Street
Cocktails and Playlist
(Printable)

Wine for the Win

Rio and Carolyn enjoy starting off a romantic evening with a glass of wine. Rio prefers the robust taste of a Cabernet served at room temperature. His personal favorite is Don Leo Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon. It's a wine he describes as intense and complex. Perfect for a guy like Rio.

On the other hand, Carolyn picks a chilled Zinfandel, although her absolute favorite special occasion wine is a luscious fruity and floral Hirsch Vineyards Hirsch Estate Chardonnay. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? Cheers!

Playlist

A cozy cuddle at home calls for the right kind of music. Rio and Carolyn love the smooth mellow sound of the classic singers from decades ago. For an amorous evening, this is their favorite playlist:

Unforgettable-Nat King Cole
Night and Day-Frank Sinatra
Our Love is Here to Stay-Billie Holliday
Dream a Little Dream of Me-Ella Fitzgerald
Till the End of Time-Perry Como
You're Getting to be a Habit With Me-Mel Torme
Come Rain or Come Shine-Ray Charles
Someone to Watch Over Me-Rosemary Clooney

A few glasses of wine and this lineup has me swooning. How about you?

