



Nanny Needed

GEORGINA CROSS

BOOK CLUB KIT

Note from the author

Dear beloved reader,

This book could have been set anywhere, but there was something enticing about selecting a penthouse in New York's Upper West Side with a family who, on the outside, appeared to have everything they wanted. But as we know, looks can be deceiving and money can't always buy happiness. Secrets can abound everywhere.

When my sister lived in New York City, we would walk for hours and oftentimes find ourselves wandering around the Upper West Side. I remember standing on the sidewalk, peering up at a penthouse, and thinking: what kind of lives do these people have? Are they happy? And what if they're not? What if there is an entirely different reality within those four walls and everyone in the household is fighting to keep their secrets hidden? I began daydreaming about a young woman whose life would collide with a particularly tragic family, and she would discover a number of secrets that she never saw coming. That idea set the stage for me to write *Nanny Needed*.

"Nanny Needed" . . . it all began with a simple ad . . .

What would have happened if Sarah hadn't answered that flyer in her lobby? And next time, will she be more cautious, especially when the job posting reads:

NANNY NEEDED

**Discretion is of the utmost importance.
Special conditions apply.**

Thank you for reading. And thank you for entering the glamorous—and yet intensely creepily gothic—world of the Bird family. It's a twist of a tale and an ending that you might not see coming.

Let's stay in touch!

Please sign up for my newsletter at
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In the meantime, happy suspenseful reading!

Georgina Cross

Discussion Questions

1. With their beautiful home and dazzling looks, the Bird family puts up a very convincing facade for Sarah—until she signs her contract. What do you think was most influential in creating Sarah's perfect image of the Bird family? Have you ever had a similar experience of disenchantment with someone or something?
2. As she tours Patty's playroom, Sarah calls it something "straight out of a fantasy," before reminiscing on her own childhood. She imagines the endless love, attention, and toys Patty must have gotten, and compares it with her own memories of financial hardship and loneliness. Having finished the book, what are your thoughts on this scene?
3. Before stumbling upon their secret, Sarah wholeheartedly trusts that her employers are exactly who they say they are. Were you as surprised as Sarah? If not, when did you first start to question their story? What were some of your guesses for what was really happening?
4. After finding out the Bird family's secret, Sarah is forced to make a difficult decision—she can stay and ensure a happy future with her fiancé or do what she thinks is right. Did you agree with what she chose to do? If not, what would you have done differently?
5. *Nanny Needed* is full of sensory details like the smell of strawberry shampoo or the texture of silk. What were some of your favorite descriptions of sights, scents, sounds, textures, or tastes from the book?
6. Sarah often compares Collette's appearance and mannerisms to those of a child. Many of her "meltdowns" also resemble children's tantrums—what do you think this accomplishes? Did these similarities make you more sympathetic towards Collette? Or did they have the opposite effect?
7. Collette and Mr. Bird are larger-than-life characters—in both appearance and personality. At their best, they were perfect alone, yet perfectly complementary together. And although Sarah eventually sees them at their worst, she understands why Pauline seems to worship them. What did you like the most about their relationship? Did they remind you of any other fictional, mythical, or historical couples?
8. Pushed to her breaking point, Sarah goes against her contract and reveals everything to her fiancé, Jonathan. While she couldn't have known just how terrible the consequences would be, Sarah knew this would put him in danger. Yet, she justifies her actions by saying, "if I'm going to share my life with him, I need to come clean." What was your reaction to her confession? Did you think it was the right thing to do? What would you have done in her situation?
9. In the end, Sarah chooses to leave the Bird family—a decision that essentially costs her a fortune. She is fully aware of how much that money could help her, yet she throws it all away. Why do you think she did it? For revenge? For justice? Or do you think there was an entirely different motive?

Meet the Staff

SARAH (NANNY)

Honest, hard-working, and compassionate

Hair: long, brown (used to be blond)

Fun fact: majored in fashion design in college

Likes: mushroom and cheese pizza, Oscar de la Renta dresses, and Manolo Blahnik shoes

INFJ: the Advocate

PAULINE (HOUSEKEEPER)

Detail-oriented, organized, and logical

Hair: black with silver streaks (usually neatly tucked behind her ears)

Uniform: robin's egg blue sweater and gray slacks

Housekeeper for the Birds for over twenty years

Likes: black coffee, clean kitchens, and the Birds

ISTJ: the Logistician

FRED (CHEF)

Good-looking, stoic, and capable

Hair: silver-gray and cropped close to his head

Uniform: Black t-shirt, jeans, tidy apron and trendy, black-rimmed glasses (and the tiniest hoop earring)

Likes: restaurants, cooking, and Clara Fontaine

ISFJ: the Defender

Meet the Birds

PATTY

Creative, shy, and clever

Hair: natural blond, smells like strawberry shampoo

Fun fact: hates peanut butter and tube slides

Likes: make-believe, fairy tales, hot chocolate, and tea parties

INFP: the Mediator

STEPHEN

Calculating, thorough, lean

Hair: short, blondish red

Fun fact: graduated from Cornell

Likes: mahogany furniture, tidiness, and contracts

INTJ: the Architect

Meet the Birds

MR. BIRD (ALEX)

Handsome, elegant, and protective

Hair: reddish brown with a flash of silver

Fun fact: has a messy office

Likes: Scotch, investing, and Mrs. Bird

ENTJ: the Commander

MRS. BIRD (COLLETTE)

Vibrant, enthusiastic, and loving

Hair: long, blond (with carefully hidden silver streaks)

Fun fact: moved from Connecticut to NYC to be a model

Uniform: Chanel no. 5 perfume and red lipstick

Likes: grapefruit with sugar, eggs benedict and green smoothies

ENFJ: the Protagonist

Collette's Dinner Party Look

Floor-length royal blue gown with feathers on one shoulder with Giuseppe Zanotti rose-gold three-inch stiletto sandals and delicate crystal-embellished appliqué wings.



Sarah's Dinner Party Look

Black and white V-neck number, tea length with a tulle A-line skirt and mesh bodice: ballerina-inspired with the most intricate threadwork.



Bird Family Dinner Party

HORS D'OEUVRES AT THE BIRDS'
DINNER PARTY

Charcuterie platter:

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh figs
- Warmed Brie
- Raspberry jam with pepper
- Pecans
- Balsamic glaze
- Honey

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Place a piece of parchment paper on a small baking sheet.
2. Unwrap the Brie and place it on the baking sheet. Slather the top with raspberry jam and pile high the pecans. Bake for 20 minutes or until the center is jiggly.
3. Remove from the oven and transfer to a cheese board. Allow to cool for 1–2 minutes, drizzle with honey or balsamic glaze and cut into slices or bite-size pieces. Serve with fresh figs and crostini.

Bird Family Dinner Party

HORS D'OEUVRES AT THE BIRDS'
DINNER PARTY

Crostini:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 baguette (crusty French bread)
- 2 to 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, as needed
- Flaky sea salt or fine salt, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. Line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper for easy cleanup.
2. Slice your baguette on the diagonal into pieces no wider than half an inch. Lightly brush both sides of each slice with olive oil (this will require about 2 to 3 tablespoons oil).
3. Place the slices in a single layer on your prepared baking sheet and bake them on the middle rack for 6 to 9 minutes, until they're crisp and nicely golden on top. Sprinkle the toasts lightly with salt.

Art history 101 –

Courtesy of the Bird family foundation

PERSIAN RUGS

metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/carpets-for-kings

FRENCH IMPRESSIONISM

metmuseum.org/toah/hd/imml/hd_imml.htm

DUTCH IMPRESSIONISM

nga.gov/research/online-editions/17th-century-dutch-paintings/essay-history-dutch-paintings-nga.html

ANTIQUE PEWTER SCONCES

nytimes.com/1981/10/25/nyregion/antiques-lighting-sign-of-wealth.html

EUROPEAN TAPESTRY WITH LADIES IN WAITING AMID APPLE TREES

metmuseum.org/toah/hd/taps/hd_taps.htm

ANTIQUE BAROQUE CHAIR

metmuseum.org/toah/hd/sfurn/hd_sfurn.htm

GLASS SCULPTURES

sothebys.com/en/articles/glass-art-through-the-ages

ORIENTAL VASES WITH FLOWERING POTS

https://www.moco.or.jp/en/intro/history_c/china.php

NYC Landmarks

