

Book Club Kit Contents:

- Letter from Jodie Leigh Murray
- Playlist from The Gangster's Mistake
 - Did you know?
 - Discussion Questions
 - Author Bio

A Letter from Jodie Leigh Murray

Dear Book Club Readers,

Thank you for reading *The Gangster's Mistake*!

Readers begged me to continue with characters from *The Gangster's Daughter*. Riley's story was never intended to be a continuation of Cameron and Regan, but it worked out pleasantly. Her story didn't change, it just added some plot twists, which makes it easy for a writer. I would be lying if I didn't falling in love with Ty even as different as he is from Cameron. He makes a bad guy look good, and a good guy look even better. Riley was intended to be a bad girl, but she played into the part so well I couldn't make her all that bad.

This book has some depth to it with mental health and struggles. Some can relate, and other can't. Regardless, I hope it resonates with readers. I was pleased when the reviews all came back with such high remarks. This was by far my biggest struggle to write compared to the first two. But I could't be more proud of how it turned out.

Like *The Gangster's Daughter* I included part of my playlist in this kit. Listen to the playlist while you chat about discussion questions. Encourage each other to share opinions, or personal experiences.

Sincerely,

Jodie Leigh Murray

P.S. I would appreciate a review on Amazon or Goodreads. Thanks again!

Playlist



Cool About It by boygenius

prayer remembered by Slowdive

De Selby (Part 2) by Hozier

The Devil In I by Slipknot

This Is How We Move by Billie Marten

Elegia by New Order

Beautiful by 10 Years

Dead Man by David Kushner

Lullaby by Low

Running Low by SYML

Babydoll by Ari Abdul

This Woman's Work by Greg Laswell

She's Not Me by Jenny Lewis

The Chase by SOHN

Unfaithful (Piano Version) by Jan A.P. Kaczmarek

Dark by Breaking Benjamin

Go Your Own Way by Lissie

Start Again, Feel the Same by Solid Gold

The Last Goodbye(feat. Bettye LaVette) by ODESZA

Change (In the House of Flies) by Deftones

Did you know . . .

Only fifteen states have stolen dogs laws? In researching information for my third book, I found some really interesting information around 'dognapping'. Kidnapping a person is a severe criminal offense, but the law doesn't see it the same way with kidnapped dogs.

As of 2023, these fifteen states have theft of dogs in their criminal codes:

1. California
2. Connecticut
3. Delaware
4. Louisiana
5. Michigan
6. Mississippi
7. New Hampshire
8. New York
9. North Carolina
10. Oklahoma
11. Rhode Island
12. Virginia
13. Texas
14. Washington
15. West Virginia

While most states consider the theft of a pet a misdemeanor, penalties in these states include relatively small fines and little to no jail time. There are five states that have the best laws regarding dog laws.

- **Virginia** has a Class 5 Felony punishable by up to 10 years in jail regardless of the dog's value.
- **Louisiana** law states if the dog's value exceeds \$500, it can result in jail time of up to 10 years or a fine of up to \$3,000 (or both). If the dog's value is less, a fine and imprisonment can still be imposed but less.
- **Oklahoma** has a felony conviction with imprisonment in the state jail of not less than six months or up to three years. The sentence can also impose a fine equal to three times the value of the dog with a maximum of \$500,000.
- **New York** has a Class E Felony with up to six months in jail and a fine of \$1,000 (up from \$200 in 2014).
- **Mississippi** has a felony conviction punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment in the county jail for up to six months, or both.

According to caninejournal.com an estimated two million domestic animals are victims of dog theft each year in the United States and only 10% of owners recover their dogs. The majority of breeds taken are purebreds such as German Shepherds, Chihuahuas, French Bulldogs, Pomeranians, and American Pit Bull Terrier's.

Money is the driving force behind stealing dogs. Dog flippers are people who realize the high monetary value of specific breeds and can resell them for a profit. Thieves will steal these breeds for sometimes more than \$2,000 of their resale value with the exception of Pit Bulls, which are typically taken for illegal fighting purposes.

There are ways you can protect your dog. Proof of ownership (licensing documents, adoption papers, veterinarian records, identifying photographs, etc.), keeping tags updated, having your dog microchipped, and buying pet insurance (if available) are all viable ways. Some people may not know that some pet insurance policies cover some of the costs that are associated with stolen pets. Figo has an Extra Care Pack add-on (for an extra fee) that includes advertising, a reward and \$150 toward the loss of your pet. Fetch offers it as additional coverage with all policies of a \$15,000 annual limit or more. It includes advertising costs, a reward for stolen or lost pets, and reimbursement for what you paid for your pet if they're stolen or get lost.

What do you do if someone steals your dog (or if you lost your dog)? First, file a police report although it will likely be a low priority. Don't stop there, though. Post your dog's microchip number, canvas the area and don't be afraid to recruit help! Distribute flyers, search for sale ads, contact your local animal shelters and contact the media. All of these are ways you can recover your dog, regardless of whether stolen or lost.

Curious what some of the most expensive breeds are?



The **Löwchen** or "little lion dog" is a small breed at one time tagged as one of the rarest breeds. Even today, there are barely a few hundred registered each year. This breed doesn't shed and is considered *hypoallergenic* due to its low allergic effects. Males only get to a maximum of about 18 lbs while females stay between 9 and 15 lbs. They can be worth between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

The **Akita** is a Japanese dog breed of large size. They were used for guarding and the hunting of bears. These dogs can be worth between \$1,000 and \$4,000.



The **Saluki** breed are powerful sight hound hunters who must be kept on a leash or in a fenced yard. They can be worth between \$2,000 and \$4,000.



Pharaoh Hounds are hunting dogs with a willingness to please and are easy to train. They can be worth between \$2,500 and \$6,000. The Pharaoh Hound is easy to lure.

The **Chow Chow** is a spitz-type of dog breed that originally hails from Northern China. They're known for their very dense double coat that is not smooth or rough. They can be worth between \$3,000 and \$8,000.



The **English Bulldog**, also known as the British Bulldog, have large heads with thick folds of skin around face and shoulders with a flat face and protruding jaw. Bulldogs are generally friendly, amiable dogs and can be worth between \$3,000 and \$9,000. They are energetic, but may overheat quickly.

The **Samoyed** is a herding dog with thick, white, double-layer coats. They are spitz-type dogs which get their name from the Samoyedic people of Siberia. Domesticated, they assist in herding, hunting, protecting, and sled-pulling. They can be worth between \$4,000 and \$11,000.



The **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel** is a British breed named after King Charles II and is generally a lap dog. They can be worth between \$2,000 and \$14,000.

German Shepherd's also known in Britain as Alsatian's are working dogs, originally bred as a herding dog for herding sheep. Since, they're used in many types of work, including disability assistance, search-and rescue, police work, and warfar. They can be worth between \$3,000 and \$24,000.



The **Tibetan Mastiff** is a large size Tibetan dog breed and is prized for being a nocturnal sentry, keeping predators and intruders at bay. They are extremely independent and intelligent and can be worth between \$2,000 and \$1.9 million. **Yes, 1.9 million dollars!!**

Did you know . . .

Tattoos can be a symbol of many things for a person such as a commemoration of the passing of a loved one, a reminder to take courage during challenging times or a tribute to a new beginning. In my research for *The Gangster's Mistake*, I did a deep dive into meanings of tattoos. I've defined the meaning of the tattoo's that Riley and Ty wear.

Semi-colon: Riley has a tattoo of a semi-colon punctuation on the inside of her wrist to remind her that her story is not over yet and her life will continue despite her struggles. This is often a symbol for suffering of mental illness and depression.

Stars: This can be a symbol of honor, destiny, guidance, hope and direction. Or, in Riley's situation, it represents light during a time of darkness.

Riley's compass tattoo: Reminds her of where she is going, having overcome hard times.



Phoenix: Ty has a phoenix across his back as a symbol of having gone through a hard time but survived it, only to come out stronger. It's a symbol of rebirth and renewal.

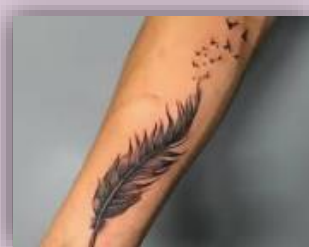
Ty's compass tattoo symbolizes a strong sense of direction and perseverance.

Other popular tattoos:

Snake: This has a double meaning of either a rebirth having transformed because the person has shed their skin or can be associated with danger.

Spider: Also has a double meaning of association with wisdom, strength and balance or can show others they need to be fearful and you are not someone to be messed with.

Yin Yang: This is a Chinese philosophy and represents unity in opposing forces such as feminine and masculine, light and dark or good and evil. For one to exist, you need the other.



Feather: A free spirit indicating there is no need to follow the rules. It also symbolizes freedom, courage and wisdom.

Discussion Questions



1. What was your expectation about the book before you read it?
2. After reading the book, did your expectations change about it?
3. If someone asked you to summarize this book in ten words or less, what would you say?
4. If this book was made into a movie, would you watch it?
5. If you could give this book a different title, what would it be?
6. Is this book's genre the type you'd usually read?
7. How long did it take you to read this book?
8. What emotions did this book cause you to feel?
9. Did you learn something new about yourself after this book?
10. Did this book evoke a new feeling of empathy for other people and their personal challenges?
11. Did you like or dislike this author's writing style?
12. Is there a quote from the book that stayed with you? What is it, and why?
13. Is there a line from the book that you found unsettling or cringe-worthy?
14. If you could interview the author, what questions would you ask?
15. Have you ever met this author in person? What were your impressions or experience?
16. What character bothered you the most?
17. If you were making a film adaption of this book, who would you cast for each main character, and why?
18. What did you think of the characters' names? Did they match their personalities?

19. If you could rename a character, which character and what would it be?
20. Do you agree with the decisions made by the main character and other characters?
21. Is the book's setting somewhere you'd like to travel to, and why?
22. How does the setting impact the story?
23. Did the world the author creates in the story feel realistic to you or lacking in certain details?
24. If you could make the setting a different location, where would it be, and how would it change the story?
25. Did the author accurately portray the time period, or did you notice inconsistencies?
26. How would you describe the pace of the plot?
27. Were there any plot twists? Were they predictable, or did they take you by surprise?
28. If you could change something that happened in the story, what would it be?
29. Is there an event in the story that stands out to you?
30. Do you agree with the ending?
26. What were some of the themes in the book?
27. Do you think the author covered the theme beautifully or missed an opportunity?
28. Did this book cause you to gain a new perspective?
29. How did this book broaden your view of societal, cultural, or worldwide issues?
30. Did this book leave a lasting impression on you?





About the Author

Jodie Leigh Murray is a self-published author of romantic suspense and historical romance novels. She lives and works out of her home in Buffalo, Minnesota. Jodie has spent most of her life writing as a hobby and professionally. Her first novel, *The Gangster's Daughter*, received three 5-star reviews from Readers' Favorite. Find her on Facebook and Goodreads, and learn more at www.jodieleighmurray.com.