

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
**ELLE COSIMANO**

**FINLAY**

"Finlay Donovan  
is irresistible!"

—JANET EVANOVICH

**DONOVAN**

DIGS  
HER  
OWN  
GRAVE

*a novel*



**THE HIT-MOM BOOK CLUB KIT**



MINOTAUR BOOKS

Welcome back to The Hit-Mom Book Club! In this kit, you'll find everything you need for your book club's discussion of

# ***FINLAY DONOVAN DIGS HER OWN GRAVE***

by **ELLE COSIMANO:**

- *Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave: A Playlist*
- *Stacey's Killer (Not Entirely Guilt-Free) Brownies*
- *Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave Discussion Questions*
- *Finlay Donovan Cut-Out Decorations*

Whether you're meeting in person or via your somewhat-shady online women's forum—dust off those wig-scarves and sunglasses, grab a Panera pastry and a glass of wine, and enjoy your discussion of Finlay, Vero—and Mrs. Haggerty's—latest hijinks.

We love to see your Finlay Donovan-inspired photos!




Please tag us on social media and use

#FinlayDonovanDigsHerOwnGrave and #HitMomBookClub.

**Minotaur Books:**

 [@MinotaurBooks](https://www.facebook.com/MinotaurBooks)  
 [@Minotaur\\_Books](https://www.instagram.com/Minotaur_Books)  
 [@StMartinsPress](https://www.tiktok.com/@StMartinsPress)

**Elle Cosimano:**

 [@ElleCosimano](https://www.facebook.com/ElleCosimano)  
 [@ElleCosimano](https://www.instagram.com/ElleCosimano)  
 [@ElleCosimano](https://www.tiktok.com/@ElleCosimano)

Happy Reading,  
Minotaur Books



MINOTAUR BOOKS

# STACEY'S KILLER (NOT ENTIRELY GUILT FREE) BROWNIES

*"I think we have a problem," Vero sang in a panicky voice.*

*"You know those brownies I bought from Stacey? The ones I hid in the freezer?"*

*I sat up in my seat. "What about them?"*

*"I think Mrs. Haggerty took them to her book club meeting."*

In *Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice*, neighbor Stacey is renowned throughout the community for the marital aides she sells from the back of her station wagon along with her killer chocolate brownies. They are indeed a guilty pleasure, in more ways than one. (IYKYK.)

Below, you'll find her secret recipe. Enjoy these scandalously decadent dark chocolate brownies with as little or as much guilt as you and your book club desire, either by following the recipe as it is written... or by adding a few enhancements of your own. (I'm not judging.)

No matter how you choose to enjoy your brownies, do so responsibly (and according to the laws in your state). –Elle Cosimano

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup granulated sugar
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup confectioner's sugar
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups Dutch processed (or dark) cocoa powder
- <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup dark chocolate chips
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp sea salt
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> tsp cinnamon
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup salted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs + 1 egg white
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup light oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray an 8x8 baking dish with oil to keep the brownies from sticking.
2. Next, sift the cocoa, flour, and confectioner's sugar together. Then combine with the remaining dry ingredients in a medium bowl and set aside.
3. In a separate large mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, butter, oil, and vanilla.

4. Add the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients, then stir until thoroughly combined. The batter will be very, very thick. The sight of it may cause salivation, vocalizations of arousal, and possibly naughty thoughts. This is a normal part of the dessert preparation process and should not result in premature guilt. There will be plenty of time for that later—we haven't even gotten to the best part!
5. Pour the batter evenly into the baking dish.
6. Bake for 45-50 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out (mostly) clean. (They will be gooey from the melted chocolate chips inside.)
7. Allow the brownies (and your raging desire) to cool completely before slicing and serving.
8. Serve with vanilla ice cream or your favorite port or brandy. And remember, a little dessert can be fun on your own, but it's always better with a friend.

# FINLAY DONOVAN DIGS HER OWN GRAVE

## The Official Playlist

1. *Too Sweet* by Hozier
2. *Risk* by Gracie Abrams
3. *Good Luck, Babe!* by Chappell Roan
4. *we can't be friends (wait for your love)* by Ariana Grande
5. *Scared to Start* by Michael Marcagi
6. *stranger* by Olivia Rodrigo
7. *I Had Some Help* by Post Malone (feat. Morgan Wallen)
8. *You Need Me Now?* by Girl in Red (feat. Sabrina Carpenter)
9. *The Door* by Teddy Swims
10. *Bang Bang* by Jessie J, Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj
11. *Someone To You* by BANNERS
12. *Sorry* by Justin Bieber
13. *Dial Drunk* by Noah Kahan (with Post Malone)
14. *Lose Control* by Teddy Swims
15. *You Love Who You Love* by Zara Larsson
16. *Wrecking Ball* by Miley Cyrus
17. *Stupid for You* by Waterparks
18. *Plastic Hearts* by Miley Cyrus
19. *Kiwi* by Harry Styles
20. *Demons* by Hayley Kiyoko
21. *People I Don't Like* by UPSAHL
22. *Walls Could Talk* by Halsey
23. *Looking at Me* by Sabrina Carpenter
24. *broken* by lovelytheband
25. *Fuck Up The Friendship* by Leah Kate
26. *Talk Too Much* by COIN
27. *Troublemaker* by Oily Murs (feat. Flo Rida)
28. *Unconditionally* by Katy Perry
29. *Happy Now* by Zedd, Elley Duhé
30. *Maps* by Maroon 5
31. *Scared to Be Lonely* by Martin Garrix, Dua Lipa
32. *Don't* by Ed Sheeran
33. *IDGAF* by Dua Lipa
34. *I'm a Mess* by Bebe Rexha
35. *Liar* by Camila Cabello
36. *Close To Me* by Ellie Goulding, Diplo, Swae Lee
37. *Don't Start Now* by Dua Lipa
38. *Back To You* by Selena Gomez
39. *Heart Attack* by Demi Lovato
40. *Ruin My Life* by Zara Larsson
41. *Cake By The Ocean* by DNCE
42. *Adore You* by Harry Styles
43. *Slow Hands* by Niall Horan
44. *Starving* by Hailee Steinfeld, Grey, Zedd
45. *Story of My Life* by One Direction
46. *Mercy* by Shawn Mendes
47. *One Last Time* by Ariana Grande
48. *Drag Me Down* by One Direction
49. *Say You Won't Let Go* by James Arthur
50. *Closer* by The Chainsmokers, Halsey



Scan the QR code  
to listen now

*"A car stereo thumped in the distance, the bass growing louder as it came into view. I squinted to see who it was as the car rolled slowly toward my house. Mrs. Haggerty was due back any minute, but I didn't imagine anyone in her book club listened to their music loud enough to wake the dead.*

*I cringed when the squared-off hood of an ancient-looking sedan cruised toward my driveway. Cam sat proudly behind the wheel. Mrs. Haggerty was riding shotgun."*

# FINLAY DONOVAN DIGS HER OWN GRAVE

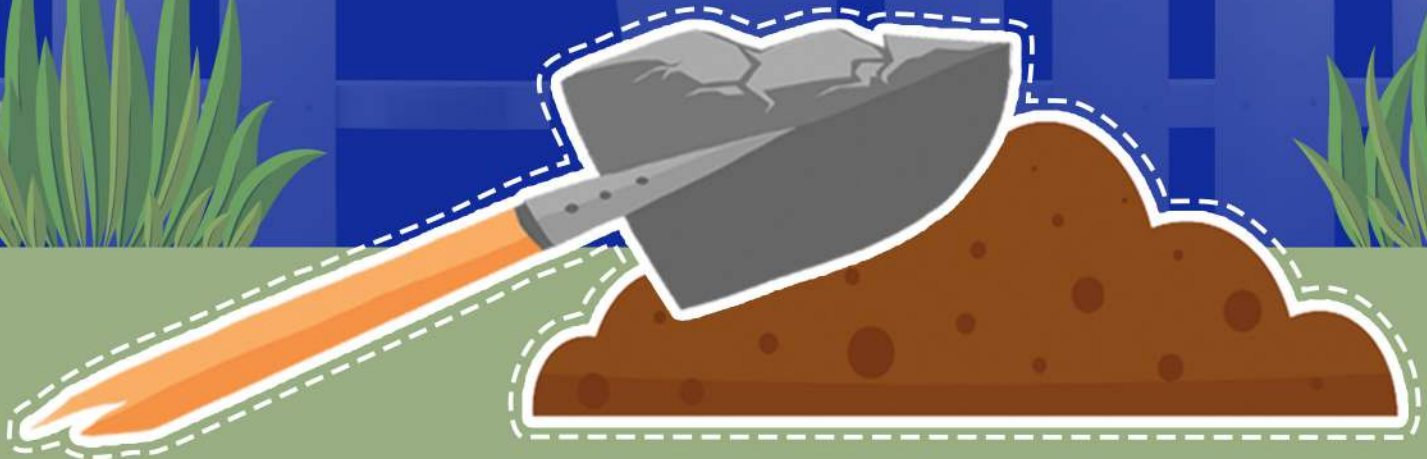
## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave* features Mrs. Haggerty's book club throughout the story. What role does the book club play in building a community for its members? Have book clubs created a sense of community in your own lives?
2. The novel begins with Delia being suspended from school for defending herself against a bully. How does this mirror the way society and authority figures often dismiss aggression against women? Did the principal's response to the incident surprise you? How about that of Cooper's mother? Or Mrs. Haggerty?
3. Both Finlay and Vero explore the theme of honesty in a relationship as they grow closer to Detective Nick and Javi, respectively. Bearing in mind all of their past experiences, the knowledge of which could potentially endanger their loved ones, what is your opinion about the amount of information they share—or don't?
4. Finlay once again faces the many challenges of parenthood. But with Vero, Mrs. Haggerty, and Finlay's mother around, Finlay gets to see firsthand how different generations view the proper way to handle these situations. How do these characters, in particular, take on different responsibilities when caring for Finlay's children? What do those choices reveal about their priorities when it comes to parenting?
5. Women supporting women plays such a large role in this novel. In what ways do the different characters—namely Finlay, Vero, Mrs. Haggerty, and the book club members—demonstrate this through their actions?
6. Mrs. Haggerty makes a point that everyone in her book club has a role to play. What are some examples of this in the story? Do your book club members take on different roles in real life? How do each of you contribute to the club?
7. Finlay faces many twists and turns, but one of the most shocking moments for her is when she realizes her perception of Mrs. Haggerty is very different from reality. Has someone in your life ever surprised you once you got to know them?
8. One running storyline features Finlay's agent chasing down a TV deal for Finlay's novels. Do you agree with Finlay's hesitations about broadcasting her writing to a wider audience, given the connections between her stories and real crimes she's found herself mixed up in? What book-to-film or -TV adaptations have you watched that were based in some truth? Did that affect how you felt about the content or its creator?
9. Once you learned of the true intentions behind Mrs. Haggerty's book club, did your feelings change toward her as a character? How about by the end of the book? In general, does the end ever justify the means?
10. At the end of the novel, Vero is extradited for old charges of thefts, though she claims she is innocent. What do you predict will happen to her in the next book? How do you think this will affect the future of Finlay and Vero's relationship?

# *FINLAY DONOVAN CUT-OUT DECORATIONS*

In Mrs. Haggerty's book club, "Everyone has a job to do. Everyone contributes."

Here's your chance to wow your book club with your contribution: Finlay Donovan decor! Make your meeting extra Finlay-festive by printing, cutting out, and displaying these graphics.





**FINLAY &  
VERO &  
JAVI &  
DET. NICK**