

READER'S GUIDE

DEMONS, WELL-SEASONED

BOOK THREE

THE SECRET SPICE CAFÉ

Books

Haitian Vodou: An Introduction to Haiti's Indigenous Spiritual Tradition by Mambo Chita Tann

Famous Voodoo Spells & Rituals by H.U. Lampe

The New I Do: Reshaping Marriage for Skeptics, Realists and Rebels by Susan Pease Gadoua and Vicki Larson

SURVIVOR: Memoirs of a WWII Vet by George F. Schneider

An Invitation to Indian Cooking by Madhur Jaffrey

Links

Civil Rights Tour of New Orleans

<https://neworleanshistorical.org/tours/show/90>

Harlem in the 1950s

<https://blacknewyorkers-nypl.org/education/>

Vodou: An Endangered Religion

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/07/vodou-haiti-endangered-faith-soul-of-haitian-people>

Website for Voodoo Authentica, in New Orleans

<http://www.voodoooshop.com/>

Eight Famous Magickal Oils and How to Use Them

<https://www.groveandgrotto.com/blogs/articles/eight-famous-magickal-oils-and-how-to-use-them>

The Majick and History of Rosemary Oil

<https://www.learnreligions.com/rosemary-2562035>

Glossary of Haitian Vodou Terms

<https://www.erzulies.com/haitian-voodoo-glossary-of-terms/>

Symbolic Meanings of the Number '13'

<https://www.symbolic-meanings.com/2008/01/27/symbolic-meaning-of-number-thirteen/>

The History of Beelzebub, Lord of the Flies

<https://mythology.net/demons/beelzebub/>

When King Cepheus Sacrificed His Daughter to a Sea Monster

<https://www.thoughtco.com/andromeda-legendary-prince-119911>

The Curse on the House of Atreus

<https://classicalwisdom.com/mythology/agamemnon-and-the-cursed-house-of-atreus/>

Doctors Who Work for Coca-Cola

<https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2009/10/30/Doctors-resign-over-Coca-Cola-funding#>

The Real-Life Royal Visit That Inspired the Downton Abbey Movie

<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2019/07/downton-abbey-movie-royals-real-life>

How to Make a Bowline Knot

https://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/bowline

YouTubeVideos:

Fats Domino, singing “Rose Mary” (1953)

https://youtu.be/eoEnO1VwE_k

Fats Domino singing "Walking to New Orleans, live, SuperBowl WX

<https://youtu.be/DND5Cy6M2Cs>

Fats Domino Jazz Funeral and Memorial in New Orleans

https://youtu.be/n7yhfj_6CM

Guitar Slim singing “The Things That I Used to Do”

<https://youtu.be/fj33EGMbazY>

Vera Lynn, singing “We’ll Meet Again” (1939 Novachord Version)

https://youtu.be/OvgM_xcx2GI

The Vera Lynn Story (Full BBC documentary 2010)

<https://youtu.be/icYQldwEUo8>

King George and Queen Mary Launch the *RMS Queen Mary*

<https://youtu.be/2ixQucywOEE>

Captain John Treasure Jones says goodbye to the *RMS Queen Mary*

<https://youtu.be/gAVhP7Sj4SQ>

Manbo Katy a Vodou priestess who summons the spirits to help heal Haiti, six years after the 2010 earthquake, which killed more than 160,000 and left over a million people without a home

<https://youtu.be/fqSrTRu53Jc>

Haitian Vodou Music

<https://youtu.be/QoCyGrkTOk0>

Tour of the Windsor Suite Aboard the *RMS Queen Mary*

<https://youtu.be/9fsRuH3Yu5s>

13 Questions for Discussion

1. In how many stages of life do we see women in *Demons, Well-Seasoned*? Are there any characteristics they all share?
2. In what ways besides her time of birth can you think of that Rosemary Taylor is 'connected' to both the ship *Queen Mary* and the actual regent, Queen Mary?
3. In what ways is the theme of 'fathers and daughters' visited in the novel?
4. According to the story, for what reason did the demon choose Marisol? What point might the author be making?
5. At one point in the story, Rohini says she is like the ghosts aboard the *Queen Mary*. What does she mean? What, if anything, changes?
6. While the spirits in all three novels cannot touch living people, Rohini gets a visit from a spirit who seems to have all the corporeal qualities of a living person. Why do you think this spirit is different?
7. Why does the author reference the Beelzebub, specifically? (Hint: the answer is in one of the links listed above.)
8. What historical parts of the novel held the most interest for you?
9. Why do you think the author chose to take us so far back into Rosemary's past?
10. What, if anything, did you learn about the practice of Vodou?
11. Aside from the wicked Beauregard Clay and the minor male characters, there are three featured males in this story: Luca, Michael, and Emilio. In your opinion, what is the most admirable trait of each? What negative traits might they have?
12. What did you think of Jane and Cynthia's decision to have 'part-time' marriages? Do you know any couples who live apart sometimes? What do you think of this lifestyle? Could you see yourself in this kind of a relationship?
13. In the Author's Note, we learn how the name for the character 'Joy Nettelbeck' was chosen. Have you ever had a Joy Nettelbeck in your life?



Photos from the Queen Mary Secret Spice Café Dinner and Tour

When author Patricia V. Davis wrote *The Secret Spice Café*, a trilogy of metaphysical novels about four diverse women who open a restaurant aboard the modern-day *RMS Queen Mary*, she had no idea her stories would inspire pilgrimages to the historic 85-year-old ship, a ship which is now a hotel and museum permanently docked in Long Beach, California. It turns out that readers of the series are flocking to it, to see if it is indeed as beautiful and spirited as the author describes, and to view for themselves the locations aboard the vessel where action in the books take place.

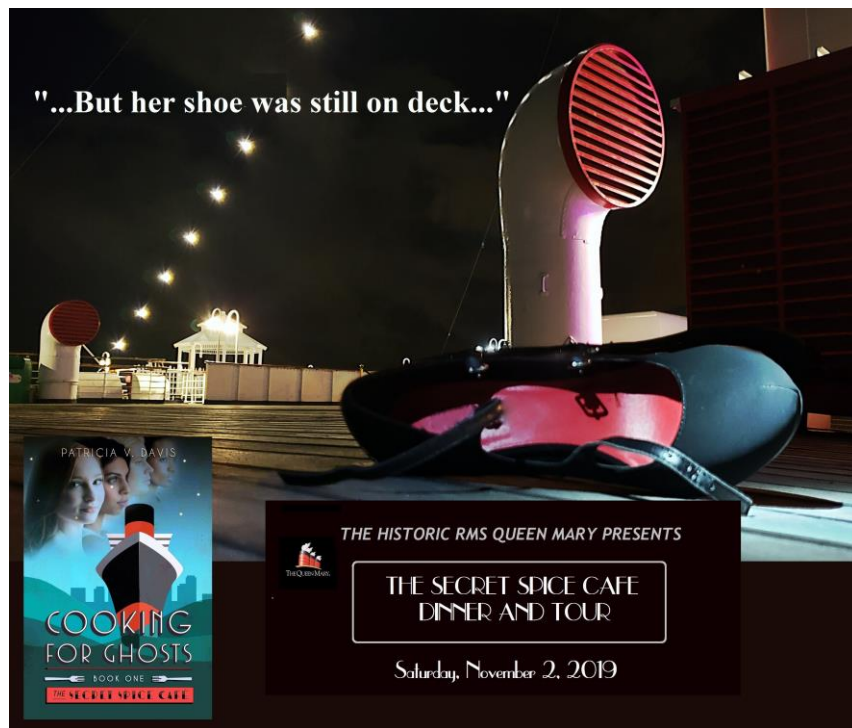
This prompted an idea by the *Queen Mary*'s Marketing Manager, Emily Seruga. Together, she and Davis came up with a spectacular event aimed to please literature and library lovers, history buffs, ship aficionados, and gourmet foodies all at once. Thus, on **Saturday, November 2, 2019**, the all-new **Queen Mary Secret Spice Cafe Dinner and Tour debuted**.

Seventy-seven readers, many in period costume and tiaras joined the author for a fabulous meal created by *Queen Mary* chefs, and inspired by recipes in the stories: Luca's Linguini, Shrimp Rohini, Secret Spice Café Chicken, and Angela's Raspberry Chocolate Truffle Tarts. The tour portion of the evening featured stops aboard the ship where the action in the novels take place. *Queen Mary* tour guide Chris Perley was on hand to give the historical background to the stops, while attendees delighted in discovering where the characters in the stories had their experiences as described in the novels: a first kiss, a daring escape, a murder, a confrontation with a kitchen spirit, and more.

Many of the attendees were visiting the ship for the first time, and hailed from far-flung states, including: Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, New York, Colorado, Nevada, California, Indiana, and Alaska.

VIP guests who attended included **Sharon Weissman**, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Director of the Long Beach Arts Council, **Porter Gilberg**, Executive Director of the LBGTQ Center of Long Beach, ninety-two-year-old war bride **June Allen**, who came to the USA aboard the ship in 1946, Emmy-award winning screenwriter of "Ghost Whisperer" Mark B. Perry, co-chair of Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, Susan Redfield, and **Kathy L. Murphy**, head of the Pulpwood Queens Book Club, the largest book club in the country with over 780 branches. It was Ms. Murphy's book group who were wearing the tiaras, but they did not look at all out of place in the magnificent Art Deco Verandah Grill where the dinner was held. Actors brought several of the characters to life. They sprang from the pages and walked among the guests. Songs that have a place in the stories too were performed by singers Heidi Teichgraeber, Sharon Walling, and Joey Defore, who is one of the new Four Seasons with Frankie Valli. His melodious and powerful "Some Enchanted Evening" could be heard across the ship. Sharon Walling sang "I Put a Spell on You," alluding to the love story at the center of Book II, and Heidi Teichgraeber brought tears to the war bride's eyes with her rendition of "We'll Meet Again," a song made famous by Vera Lynn during World War II.

But for the author, who is a former teacher, one of the best parts of the event was that she was able to convince the ship to donate a portion of the ticket price to the new [Long Beach Main Library](#). Check out the photos from this wonderful event.



Queen Mary tour guide Chris Perley, directs attendees to a spot on the ship featured in the novel, *Cooking for Ghosts*, at The Queen Mary Secret Spice Cafe Dinner and Tour. November 2, 2019



Heidi Teichgraeber sings a song made famous by Vera Lynn during WWII, "We'll Meet Again," at The Queen Mary Secret Spice Cafe Dinner and Tour. November 2, 2019.



Many guests dressed in period costume, including war bride, June Allen (left) who came to the USA in 1946, aboard the *Queen Mary*.





Author Patricia V. Davis signs copies of *Demons, Well-Seasoned* for attendees.





Actress Denise Tapscott appears as the character of “Rosemary Taylor” from *Demons, Well-Seasoned*



Guests gather to watch “Priestess Rosemary Taylor” banish a bad spirit...