

## HUMPTY DUMPTY WAS PUSHED

A “Hip Hop Noir”\* novel of suspense by Marc Blatte

The questions included here are to aid your discussion of HUMPTY DUMPTY WAS PUSHED by Marc Blatte. This cutting-edge suspense tale brings readers into the heart of a complex NYPD investigation, and brings to life exciting characters as gritty as the streets themselves. Author Marc Blatte, a successful veteran music producer, has instilled a real-life sense of being in the thick of this industry. We hope you enjoy reading and discussing HUMPTY DUMPTY WAS PUSHED, and encourage you to visit the author’s site at [MarcBlatte.com](http://MarcBlatte.com) to learn view the trailer, and comment on Marc’s frequent “behind-the-scenes” blog posts.

1. Was Humpty Dumpty pushed? Discuss the title, and what it means to the novel.
2. Character names are important in this novel. Why do you think the author used such descriptive names? How does this enhance the story, the sense of place, or the themes of the novel?
3. What did you think about the picture of New York City this novel presents? How does it match your own impression of the city, or how does it show you sides of the city that seem unfamiliar?
4. The author, Marc Blatte, has had a successful career in the music business. How does this backdrop work to push the novel’s narrative forward? Did you learn something from this? If this novel had a musical score, what would it include? (Don’t miss the author’s thoughts on this in his [blog](#) posting.)
5. Bestselling author John Burdett called HUMPTY DUMPTY WAS PUSHED “rollicking ... unique, hip.” What three words would you use to describe this mystery?
6. The author is collaborating to bring the novel to the silver screen. What is your favorite movie adaptation of a novel? How does the experience of reading a book differ from watching the movie? Can you cast HUMPTY DUMPTY WAS PUSHED for the movies? Visit [StoryCasting.com](http://StoryCasting.com), and let all the members post their preferred cast members; compare your solutions.

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\* Paul Ingram, Prarie Lights Bookstore

7. Pashko and Vooko are first-generation immigrants. So is Black Sallie. How does their experience make them different from other characters? How similar? Compare them to the Kessler family members.
8. Many successful suspense authors have become identified with one location. Michael Connelly=LA; Robert Parker=Boston; Sara Paretsky=Chicago. We cannot imagine their heroes/heroines in any city other than the one in which we read about them most. Could Black Sallie exist in any other city? Which one? Why? Why not? What other authors bring the city of New York to life best?
9. (Spoiler Alert!) Kessler shoots at Sal. He misses. Intentional? Not intentional? What would have happened if he had not shot? Had shot and killed Sal?
10. The author has included an epilogue. Did it meet your expectations? Did you like knowing what happens after the case is closed? What alternate endings could the author have provided?
11. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?