

Book Club Questions – FATAL BRUSHSTROKE (Aurora Anderson #1)  
Author: Sybil Johnson

1. What can you tell about the main character, Aurora Anderson, from her actions in the first chapter?
2. In what ways does Rory's profession as a freelance computer programmer help in her sleuthing?
3. Vista Beach, the setting for FATAL BRUSHSTROKE, is a small, fictional Southern California beach city loosely based on real cities like Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. Why would the author create a fictional city rather than set her story in one of the real beach communities near Los Angeles? What advantages does creating an imaginary town give her? Any disadvantages?
4. Rory relies on her best friend, Liz, to help out with the sleuthing. They are opposites in a lot of ways. Rory is tall, Liz short. Rory is fairly new in town, Liz seems to know everyone in the city. Rory is more reserved, Liz is extremely outgoing. How does having a best friend so unlike herself help Rory in the investigation?
5. Rory was adopted at 2 years old and her birth parents were criminals. Nature v. nurture is a long-running debate. Which do you think is most important when it comes to human behavior? If you had a friend whose parents had committed crimes that hurt or killed others, how would you feel about them after finding out?
6. Which actors would you cast in the movie version of the book?
7. What scene in the book grabbed you the most? Why?
8. Tole or decorative painting figures in the story. Did you know anything about the hobby before you started reading? Does reading this story make you want to learn more?
9. What do you think the future holds for Rory and Detective Green?
10. If you had only one question to ask the author, Sybil Johnson, about the book, what would that be?