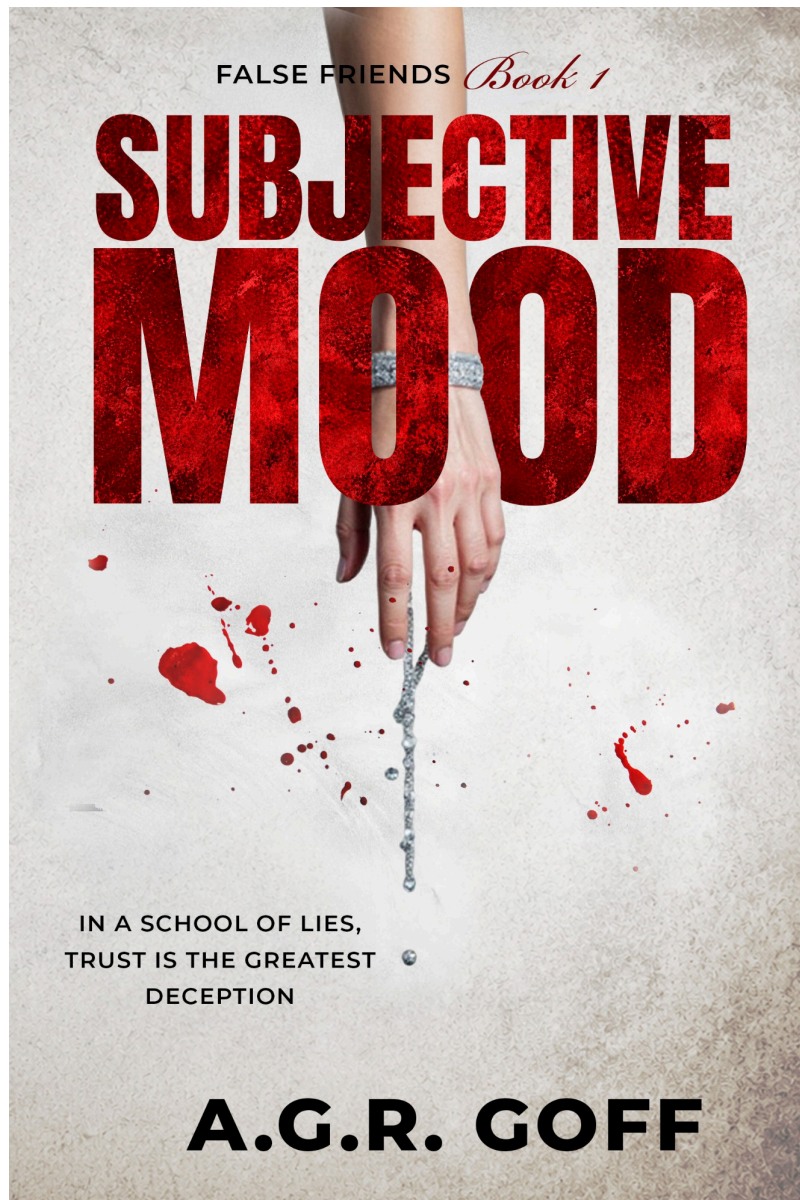




## Book Club Guide

<https://www.agr-goff.com>



## Subjective Mood - Discussion Guide

Subjective Mood explores how major life events reshape identity, perception, and vulnerability. After the death of her husband during the Covid pandemic, Bianca relocates to Málaga, where grief, isolation, and the challenge of building a new life in a foreign language influence her decisions and relationships. The grammatical idea of the subjunctive mood – expressing doubt, desire, fear, and uncertainty – mirrors the emotional and psychological instability that runs throughout the novel.

### Discussion Questions

- 1) How does grief influence Bianca's decisions after the death of her husband?
- 2) In what ways does moving to another country increase both freedom and vulnerability?
- 3) How does the novel portray the psychological impact of losing a partner and rebuilding life alone?
- 4) What role does the Covid pandemic play in shaping the emotional atmosphere of the story?
- 5) How does learning a new language as an adult affect identity, confidence, and independence?
- 6) How does the experience of being an expat influence Bianca's perception of trust and belonging?
- 7) At what point does attention or interest become uncomfortable or threatening?
- 8) How does the novel explore the human desire to feel close to someone after a life-changing loss?
- 9) How does uncertainty about the past influence present decisions?
- 10) How does the idea of the subjunctive mood reflect Bianca's situation?
- 11) Which moments show how emotional vulnerability can influence perception?
- 12) How does the appearance of someone believed to be lost affect Bianca's attempt to build a new life?
- 13) How does the novel explore the balance between independence and the need for connection?
- 14) Which aspects of the story reflect the challenges of starting again in adulthood?

### Themes

- grief and emotional recovery
- loss and vulnerability
- life after Covid
- reinvention after bereavement
- expat isolation

- building a new life abroad
- adult language learning
- identity and belonging
- obsession and boundaries
- trust and uncertainty
- desire for connection
- psychological influence
- perception and ambiguity
- second beginnings

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