

The Dilettantes

by Michael Hingston

Conversation Starters

The Dilettantes is set in Vancouver on the Simon Fraser University Campus. What flavours do this particular city and campus add to the story? How might the story change if it occurred on a university campus in another province? What aspects of the story would stay the same?

Will the modern-day references in the book, for instance texting and IMDB, make this book seem dated when they're no longer a part of our everyday lives? Or does the book capture an essence of university life that is universal?



What effect does the university ephemera that's scattered throughout the book have on the way you experience the book?

On page 24 we're introduced to Dave's theory on the three levels of conversation you have to have with a classmate before you're considered friends. This theory could potentially be applied to life outside of a university campus as well. Do you think it's an accurate portrayal of the way friendships are built, or is it an oversimplification?

Refreshments

A Bitter Canadian*

Because no one is more bitter than a Canadian university student.

- 1 1/2 oz Canadian whiskey
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters
- 4-5 oz sweet and sour mix
- 1 lemon wedge

Fill highball glass with ice. Add whiskey, then fill with sour mix. Finish with 2-3 dashes of Angostura bitters and a squeeze of a lemon wedge.

* For an authentic university drinking experience, substitute with Pabst Blue Ribbon.

Spicy Roasted Potato Skins

Because potatoes are so cheap that even students can afford them!

This recipe takes a classic appetizer and adds a spicy kick to it. Regular old cheddar is replaced with the sharpness of Parmesan and the skins are dressed up with spices and served with a yogurt-mustard dip. A satisfying savoury snack to share with your fellow book lovers.

[CLICK FOR THE FULL RECIPE](#)