

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
ELLE COSIMANO

FINLAY

“Finlay Donovan
is irresistible!”

—JANET EVANOVICH

DONOVAN

**ROLLS
THE**

DICE



a novel

THE HIT-MOM BOOK CLUB KIT



MINOTAUR BOOKS

Welcome back to The Hit-Mom Book Club! In this kit, you'll find everything you need for your book club's game night-themed discussion of

FINLAY DONOVAN ROLLS THE DICE

by **ELLE COSIMANO:**

- **Rolls the Dice: A Playlist**
- **Giada Toscano's Lemon Shortbread Cookies**
- **Finlay Donovan Bingo**
- ***Veronica Ruiz Breaks the Bank: A Crossword Puzzle***
- ***Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice: A Crossword Puzzle***
- ***Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice Discussion Questions***

Whether you're meeting in person, online, via your somewhat-shady online women's forum, or in a seedy Atlantic City hotel—dust off those wig-scarves and sunglasses, grab a Panera pastry and a glass of wine, and enjoy your discussion of Finlay and Vero's latest hijinks.

We love to see your Finlay Donovan-inspired photos! Please tag us on social media and use #FinlayDonovanRollsTheDice and #HitMomBookClub.

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Happy Reading,



MINOTAUR BOOKS

ROLLS THE DICE: A PLAYLIST

1. Trouble - Valerie Broussard
2. Unstoppable - R3HAB Remix by Sia, R3HAB
3. Play with Fire (feat. Yacht Money) - Sam Innesz, Yacht Money
4. Chapstick - COIN
5. Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home) - Elle King, Miranda Lambert
6. Bitch Better Have My Money - R3HAB Remix - Rihanna, R3HAB
7. Kings & Queens - Ava Max
8. Crash My Car - COIN
9. Last Laugh - FLETCHER
10. Cross Your Mind - David Solomon
11. no body, no crime (feat. HAIM) - Taylor Swift, HAIM
12. Ain't No Rest for the Wicked - Cage the Elephant
13. Look at Her Now - Selena Gomez
14. Do I Wanna Know? - Arctic Monkeys
15. Highway to Hell - AC/DC
16. You Know I'm No Good - Amy Winehouse
17. Break My Heart - Dua Lipa
18. Cool - Dua Lipa
19. Bad Girl - Daya
20. The Man - Taylor Swift
21. Graveyard - Halsey
22. Head on Fire - Griff, Singrid
23. Fallin' (Adrenaline) - Why Don't We
24. Maybe You're the Problem - Ava Max
25. Making Love to the Dead - BEGINNERS
26. Aimed to Kill - Jade LeMac
27. Somethin' Bad (with Carrie Underwood) - Miranda Lambert, Carrie Underwood
28. Gunpowder & Lead - Miranda Lambert
29. Woman (feat. The Dap-Kings Horns) - Kesha, The Dap-Kings Horns
30. Heads Will Roll - Yeah Yeah Yeahs
31. bellyache - Billie Eilish
32. Valkyrie - Battle Tapes
33. Bad Reputation - Avril Lavigne
34. Hot One - Leyla Blue, Baby Tate, REI AMI
35. No Good - Kaleo
36. Getaway Car - Taylor Swift
37. Breakfast - Dove Cameron
38. bad guy - Billie Eilish
39. Wicked Ones - Dorothy
40. Angry Woman - Ashe
41. Stuck in the Middle With You - Stealers Wheel
42. Knife Under My Pillow - Maggie Lindemann
43. Burn - Ellie Goulding
44. Shine A Little Light - The Black Keys
45. Kill This Love - BLACKPINK
46. Roar - Katy Perry
47. You Only Live Once - The Strokes
48. Kill Of The Night - Gin Wigmore
49. I am not a woman, I'm a god - Halsey
50. Power - Little Mix
51. Power & Control - MARINA
52. The Good, the Bad, and the Dirty - Panic! At The Disco
53. She (For Liz) - Parachute
54. Mayday!!! Fiesta Fever - AWOLNATION, Alex Ebert
55. Fire Alarm - Castlecomer
56. How to Be a Heartbreaker - MARINA
57. plot line - emlyn
58. King - Lilith Czar
59. The Less I Know The Better - Tame Impala
60. Roll the Dice - Shaylen



Scan the QR code
to listen now

GIADA TOSCANO'S LEMON SHORTBREAD COOKIES

“Don’t mind my sister,” Enzo said. “Her dog is missing, and she bakes when she’s stressed. You’d think the damn dog was her kid, the way she fusses over him.” He held up his wrists and wagged his eyebrows at the fuzzy handcuffs around them. “Now, where were we?” He inclined his head toward the cookies. Vero stuffed one in his mouth. “Delicious,” he said as he began to chew. A spray of crumbs and powdered sugar dusted the carpet of dark hair on his chest. He jutted his chin toward his drink. I held the heavy glass to his lips as he slurped down a long sip.

COOKIE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/8 cup cornstarch
- 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp lemon extract
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp citric acid
- 7/8 cup salted butter (softened)
- 1/2 cup confectioners’ sugar
- granulated sugar for dusting (optional)

GLAZE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 2 tbsp limoncello liquor
- 1 1/2 tsp finely grated lemon zest
- 1/4 tsp citric acid

LEMON COOKIE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Whisk the flour, cornstarch, zest, citric acid, and salt together in a medium bowl.
2. In a larger bowl, beat the butter and confectioners’ sugar at medium speed for 3-5 minutes until fluffy. Add half the flour mixture, the lemon juice, and the extracts, and beat to combine. Then add the remaining flour mixture and combine to form a dough.
3. Transfer the dough to a large piece of parchment paper and roll the dough into a log approximately 2 inches thick. (Optional: Sprinkle the parchment with granulated sugar and roll the formed log in the sugar, lightly dusting it. This will give the outer edges of the finished cookies a nice shine and a bit of added sweetness.) Wrap the log in the parchment paper and refrigerate for one hour.

4. Remove the dough from the fridge and cut into 1/2 inch-thick slices. Spread the slices on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.
5. Pre-heat oven to 320°F.
6. Bake the cookies for 5 minutes, then raise the oven temperature to 350°F and continue baking for approximately 10 minutes until the cookies are lightly golden. Remove from the oven. Wait for the cookies to cool before glazing.

LEMON GLAZE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Whisk limoncello, lemon juice, powdered sugar, citric acid, and zest until smooth.
2. Drizzle, brush, or spread over the cookies as desired.
3. Allow glaze to set for 15 minutes before serving. (Tip: for thicker glaze, add more confectioners’ sugar. For thinner glaze, add more lemon juice or limoncello.)

FINLAY DONOVAN BINGO

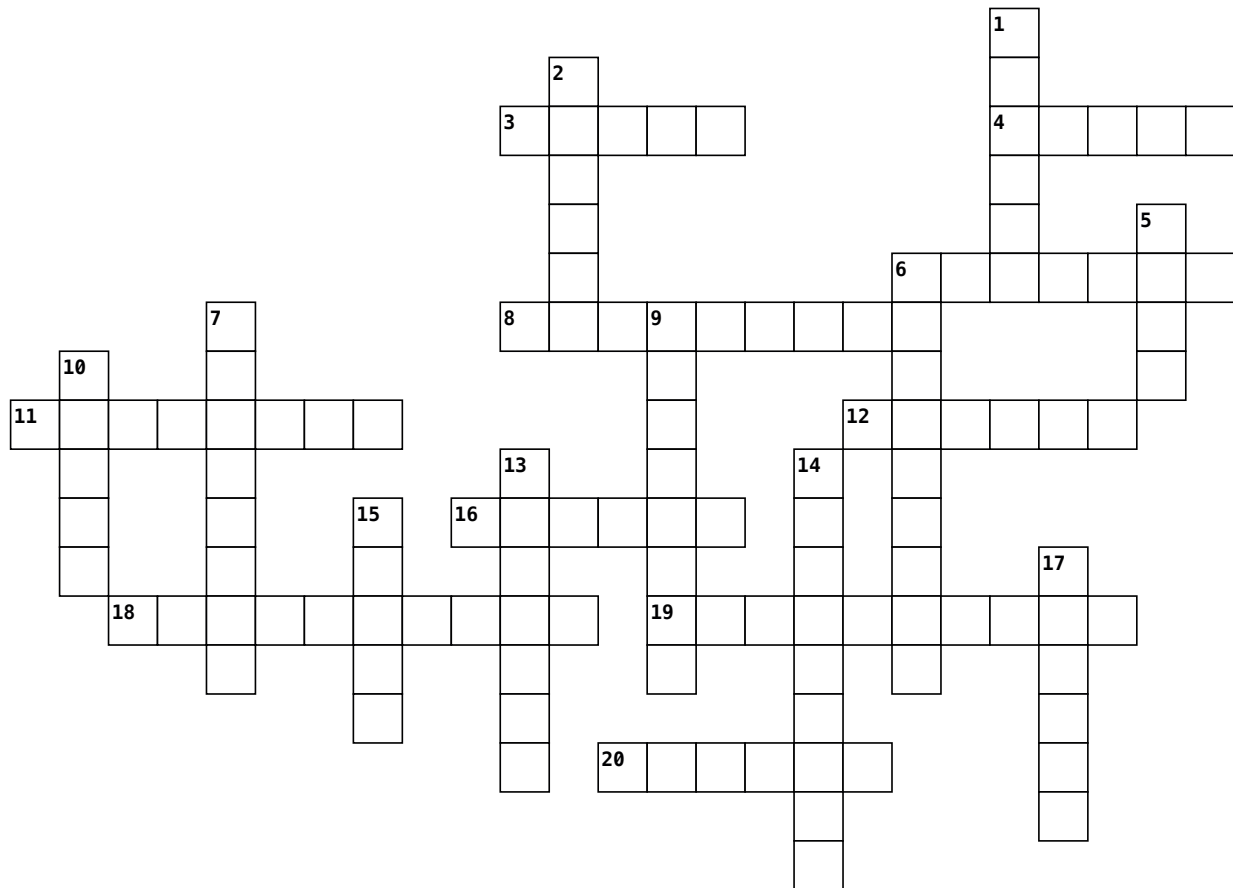
Pretend your book club is at The Royal Flush Casino Hotel by playing a round of Finlay Donovan Bingo!
Create your own bingo cards using the Finlay Donovan phrases in the sample bingo card below,
or input the words into a free online bingo card randomizer. Have fun and good luck!

VERO RUIZ	ATLANTIC CITY	STEVEN	KEVIN BACON	ZACH
PANERA BREAD	MRS. HAGGERTY	THE CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY	S.H.	THE ROYAL FLUSH CASINO HOTEL
WIG- SCARF	EASY CLEAN	FINLAY DONOVAN (Free Spot!)	DELIA	GIADA TOSCANO
HOT COP	CHUBBIES	GEORGIA	STOLEN CAR	MARYLAND
FELIKS ZHIROV	JAVI	GIRLS TRIP	RUSSIAN MOB	WRITER'S BLOCK

VERONICA RUIZ BREAKS THE BANK: A CROSSWORD

If you've read *Veronica Ruiz Breaks the Bank*, the new novella in the Finlay Donovan series, you'll understand why we're featuring a custom crossword puzzle in this Hit-Mom Book Club Guide. If you haven't read VRBTB yet, what are you waiting for?! It's available wherever ebooks and audiobooks are sold.

"The man, presumably Philip, walked past them to his station, never once looking up from the folded section of newspaper in his hand. "Sorry," he mumbled down at his crossword puzzle, "I was stuck on number seventeen. Seven letters down, a platinum queen." "Beyoncé," Vero answered."



Across

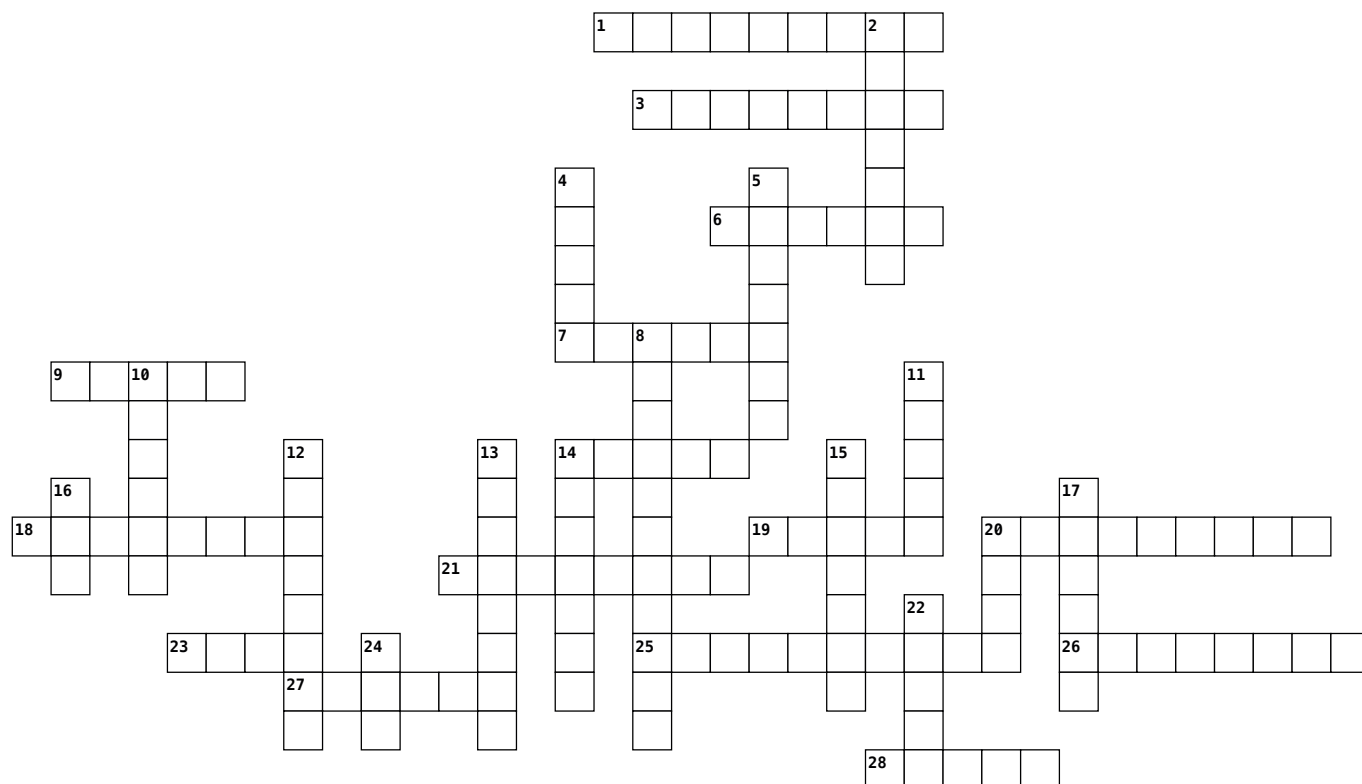
- 3. Terence's lunch trash
- 4. Where Javi sleeps
- 6. Vero and Javi have matching ones
- 8. Darren pretends to read it
- 11. Where the thief was caught
- 12. What Vero steals from Helen
- 16. Javi's ride
- 18. Wild Bird Store purchase
- 19. Vero's mom's cake
- 20. Vero's opportunity

Down

- 1. What Darren threw away
- 2. Vero broke into it
- 5. What Vero bought at a yard sale
- 6. Vero's sorority job
- 7. Vero's home state
- 9. Terence's job
- 10. Ramón's daunting task
- 13. What Vero's hiding from
- 14. Philip's favorite activity
- 15. What's hidden in Helen's car
- 17. Vero's promotion

FINLAY DONOVAN ROLLS THE DICE: A CROSSWORD

And because we had so much fun with the VRBTB crossword puzzle, here's one for
Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice!



Across

1. Joey chews on this
3. Not Chubby's
6. Zach's blanket
7. Dangerous lenders
9. Ricky the _____
14. Ike's gold _____
18. Bath bomb scent
19. Giada's cookies
20. Table game
21. Finlay's dad's favorite game
23. Vero's crush
25. Cam's treasure
26. What Susan wears to bed
27. Marco's piece
28. Kevin _____

Down

2. What Nick gives Finlay
4. Spider and bat
5. Stripper Steele
8. Missing car
10. What Steven is hiding
11. Boardwalk entertainer
12. Vero's estranged sisters
13. Charlie's weapon
14. Matching letters
15. Fortune teller
16. Georgia's soft spot
17. Kat's occupation
20. Tarp color
22. Chop shop dinner
24. Where Marco was found

FINLAY DONOVAN ROLLS THE DICE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this book, Finlay is dealing with impostor syndrome. Her agent, Sylvia, suggests this is normal for writers and her that self-doubts will pass, but not all of Finlay's insecurities are rooted in doubts over her identity as an author. In what other ways is Finlay feeling like an impostor and why?
2. Throughout the story, we see instances of women helping women. Even in the strip club and in Romelda's shop, women are lending each other a hand. How many examples can you find throughout the story? In what ways does each instance reinforce this theme in the book?
3. At the climax of the story, Finlay orchestrates a series of events that rely on the involvement of two powerful women, both of whom she fears, and isn't sure are trustworthy. Were you surprised by the women Finlay enlists to help her? Why do you think these women, including Finlay, make the choices they do? How much of a gamble is this on Finlay's part—do you think she expected them to agree to help her?
4. In the beginning of the story, Finlay rejects Vero's suggestion that they resort to violence to rescue Javi. Instead, Finlay insists that she and Vero solve their problems using their words using negotiation. At what point do we see Finlay's position shift? In what ways does Finlay both take action and use her words to solve her problems?
5. Romelda, the psychic, made several predictions before Finlay and Vero left her shop. Do you think Romelda could truly see the future, or do you believe Finlay and Vero interpreted their fortunes based on coincidences as they happened?
6. When Vero and Javi finally reunite, he confesses his reasons for walking away from their relationship years ago—that he was ashamed of a mistake he'd made and he feared he wasn't worthy of her. Which other characters in the story have made similar choices to conceal mistakes from their loved ones? Do you agree with their choices? Why?
7. While in Atlantic City, Finlay learns that her mother and father are having marital issues. Do you think the trip was good for Susan? What fears, regrets, or desires did you see Susan projecting onto her own children's relationships?
8. Steven has an eye-opening experience caring for the children in Atlantic City. What do you think he learns during the trip? What do you think of his revelations about partnership and co-parenting?
9. Nick presents Finlay with a piece of evidence he found in Charlie's suitcase, suggesting he knows she was somehow involved. Yet he doesn't accuse her. Instead, he tells her about the realization he's had about Charlie and Joey, two other partners who lied to him, both for very different reasons. What was Nick implying by sharing these thoughts with Finlay? If he suspects she might be hiding something, why does he choose to look the other way?
10. At the end of the novel, Finlay reflects on her affection for Vero and her fear that one day Vero will inevitably decide to move out and start a family of her own. How has their relationship grown and changed over the course of the series? How do you predict it will change in the future, as the children grow older and both Finlay and Vero each develop romantic partnerships of their own?