

# BOOZERS BALLCOCKS & BAIL

## Book Group Topics

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- In his first sentence, Steve introduces career criminal Jack Heptonstall as ‘a likeable rogue’. Do you feel it’s possible – or for a defence lawyer, perhaps inevitable or even necessary – to separate the knowledge that someone’s a criminal from liking them?
- How do you read Steve’s relationship with the police force? What pressures do you think might impinge on a defence lawyer in relation to that?
- Steve proclaims himself as ‘the champion of the little man’. How far do you feel he meets that remit?
- Some of the cases Steve recounts are quite tragic. Who do you feel most sympathy for – Lorraine, Mrs Daniels, Eric Sharpe, Spider, Jane, or ‘the Earl of Scarborough’? Why?
- How do you react to Steve’s humour, when he’s dealing with cases and situations that are often distressing and usually far from funny? How do you imagine you’d react/cope in similar circumstances?
- Were you shocked by Steve’s description of the holding cells at Rotherham? If so, why – and if not, why not?
- Have Steve’s descriptions of Christmas parties missed, timetables shattered, and family life put on hold given you a new picture of a lawyer’s life – usually seen as a fat-cat existence?

