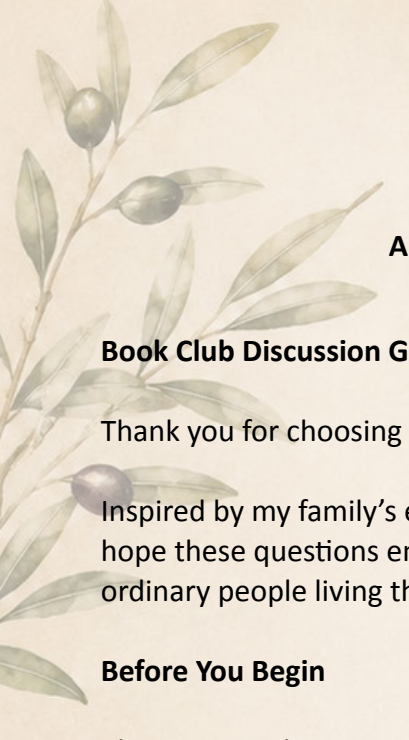




LILIA

A True Story of Love, Courage, and Survival in the Shadow of War

Book Club Discussion Guide. *Questions to inspire thoughtful conversation and reflection.*

Thank you for choosing *LILIA* for your book club.

Inspired by my family's extraordinary true story, *LILIA* explores resilience, hope, sacrifice, and enduring love. I hope these questions encourage reflection and meaningful discussion about the remarkable strength of ordinary people living through extraordinary times.

Before You Begin

Please note: These questions contain spoilers and are intended for readers who have finished the novel.

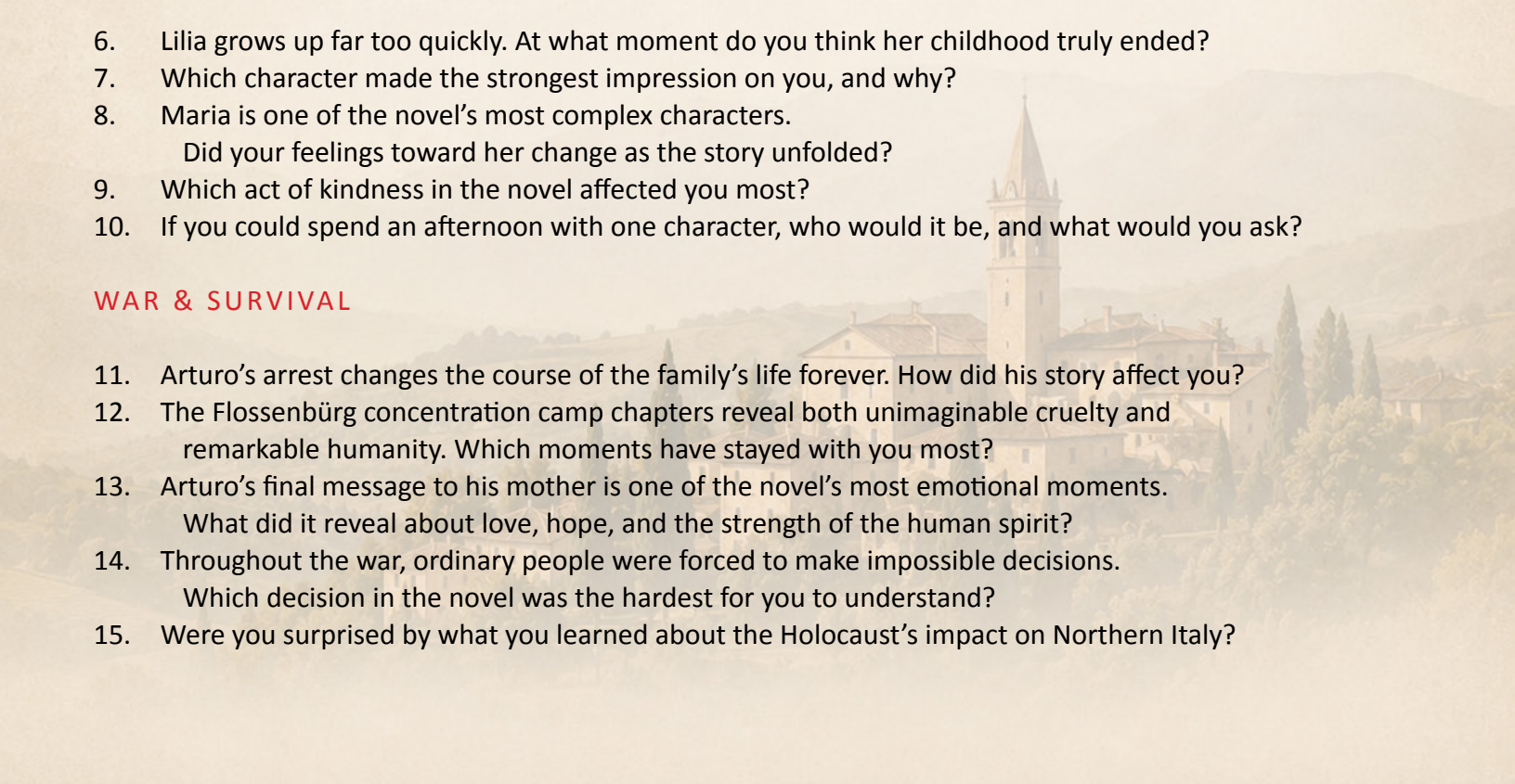
THE STORY

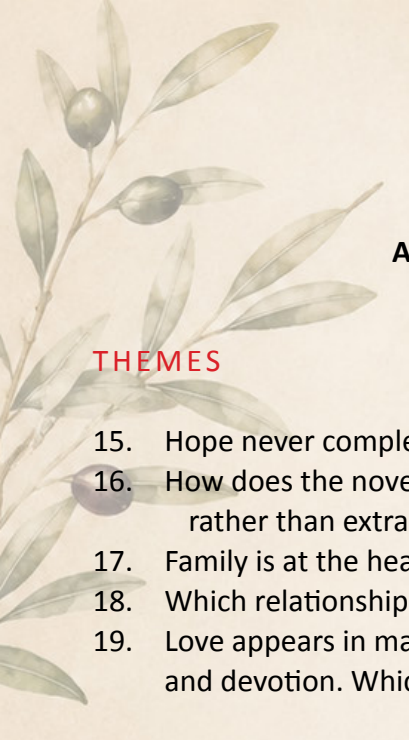
1. *LILIA* is based on a true story. How did knowing these events really happened affect your experience of the novel?
2. Which moment in Lilia's childhood affected you most, and why?
3. Which scene stayed with you long after you finished the novel?
4. Was there a moment that surprised you or challenged your assumptions about civilian life during the Second World War?
5. If you could describe *LILIA* in three words to someone who hasn't read it, what would they be?

CHARACTER

6. Lilia grows up far too quickly. At what moment do you think her childhood truly ended?
7. Which character made the strongest impression on you, and why?
8. Maria is one of the novel's most complex characters.
Did your feelings toward her change as the story unfolded?
9. Which act of kindness in the novel affected you most?
10. If you could spend an afternoon with one character, who would it be, and what would you ask?

WAR & SURVIVAL

11. Arturo's arrest changes the course of the family's life forever. How did his story affect you?
 12. The Flossenbürg concentration camp chapters reveal both unimaginable cruelty and remarkable humanity. Which moments have stayed with you most?
 13. Arturo's final message to his mother is one of the novel's most emotional moments.
What did it reveal about love, hope, and the strength of the human spirit?
 14. Throughout the war, ordinary people were forced to make impossible decisions.
Which decision in the novel was the hardest for you to understand?
 15. Were you surprised by what you learned about the Holocaust's impact on Northern Italy?
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THEMES

15. Hope never completely disappears from Lilia's life. Which scene best illustrates the power of hope?
16. How does the novel show that resilience is often built through ordinary acts rather than extraordinary ones?
17. Family is at the heart of Lilia's story. What does the novel suggest about the strength of family bonds?
18. Which relationship in the novel moved you the most, and why?
19. Love appears in many forms throughout the book: romantic love, parental love, friendship, sacrifice, and devotion. Which resonated with you most?

HISTORY

20. What did you learn about wartime Northern Italy that you didn't know before reading LILIA?
21. How did reading a true family story differ from reading traditional historical fiction?
22. Which historical event or aspect of Italian wartime life would you like to learn more about?

REFLECTION

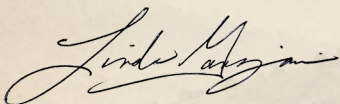
23. The novel ends with Renzo's unforgettable words: "I'm going to marry that girl."
After everything Lilia endured, what emotions did that ending leave you with?
24. If you had the opportunity to sit down with Lilia today, what is the one question you would ask her?

A Personal Note

Thank you for choosing *LILIA* for your discussion. Knowing that my mother's story continues to bring readers together in thoughtful conversation is one of the greatest gifts this journey has given me.

If your book club would like to share a photo or tell me where you're reading from, I'd be delighted to hear from you. With your permission, your group may even be featured on the **Book Clubs** page of my website.

With gratitude,



Linda Ganzini

