

THE STING OF LOVE — READING GROUP GUIDE

Thank you for reading *The Sting of Love*. The following questions may help guide your discussion.

I am available for book club guest appearances, either in person (if local) or by Skype/Zoom. If you are interested, please send me an email: janetgraber@comcast.net

For Discussion

1. A major theme in the book is guilt. Discuss the various ways in which James and Georgina deal with their sense of guilt. How do you think they handle, or do not handle, these feelings. How has it changed both their lives?
2. Did Mary make the right choice in destroying the letter from Alenka? How do you think James might have reacted if he *had* received the letter? What might he have done as a result of the letter?
3. Another major theme in this book is secrets. In what ways do the secrets of her father's past mirror Georgina's own unresolved relationships?
4. This novel offers a rare glimpse into what the successful travel writer Jan Morris has called The Nowhere City. Ethnically diverse, Trieste is squeezed between multiple countries and is considered the least Italian city. How does this unique place shape the narrative? How does it heighten the conflicting emotions between Captain Drummond and Alenka?
5. The Karst plateau serves not only as an ethnic border, but a physical one as well. How does it play a part in the story, and what secrets does it hold?
6. As well as exploring father-daughter relationships, *The Sting of Love* touches on mother-daughter relationships. How do you think Gina's relationship with her mother shaped her future relationship with her own daughters?
7. Captain Drummond was able to look the other way when Corporal Larkins refused to go back to England? How and why do you think he was able to make that decision?
8. Did the discovery of a sibling change Gina's view of herself? If so, in what ways did it alter her perception of herself and the world around her?
9. What sacrifices do the characters make in this novel? Do you agree with their sacrifices, or do you feel they should have acted differently?
10. If you had lived during WWII in any of the countries occupied by the Nazis, would you have joined a resistance movement? Why or why not?