

## Readers Guide

1. Do you think there is significance in Meg's living in a borrowed cottage?
2. Was there a place you wanted to visit since you were a child? What was it like when you finally went? If you haven't been yet, do you think you will go?
3. Meg's connection to her Nonna's painting and that feeling she had in her home fuel a great deal of her emotions connected to Florence as well as a deeper longing. Can you identify a memory from your childhood that invokes in you a response like Meg's?
4. How would you describe Meg's father? Do you think he loves his daughter? If you were Meg, would you have waited as long as she did for her father to take her to Florence?
5. Why was Meg's parents' divorce so devastating? Can you relate to her sense of loss?
6. What did Meg find compelling about Devon? What was the basis of her attraction to him? On the other hand, why do you think Devon was attracted to Meg's mother?

7. Were you surprised or not surprised that Meg's father was not in Florence when Meg arrived? How would her trip have been different had he been there?
8. In Nora Orsini's narrative, the nurse tells Nora, "You see that girl in the glass? You are the one who will say who she is, Nora. You decide who she will be." Was that good advice?
9. Were the actions that Sofia's parents took when she was a child justifiable? Did Sofia's father equip her to deal with heartache and loss, or did his actions merely cripple her ability to deal with reality? How did Nora Orsini deal with life's hardships?
10. At dinner, Lorenzo tells Renata that the rules for love are made in heaven, and Renata responds that is why the rules don't work on Earth. Lorenzo says, "I could not live up to the rules. And you could not. The rules are fine. It's us who are broken." Is Lorenzo right? Why do you think Lorenzo felt that he'd failed at love?
11. Lorenzo tells Meg that it's good there are people like Renata who see everything in black and white because "they remind us of what stays the same, no matter what." Do you agree? Are you a shades-of-gray person, or do you see things as black or white? Are you more like Lorenzo or Renata?
12. When Meg finally sees the statue, she is disappointed that it doesn't match the one she has in her memory. Have you ever visited something that was part of a vivid childhood memory

only to have it seem small and underwhelming when you saw it again as an adult? Why do you think that is?

13. Do you think Sofia should be allowed to keep her delusions? Why or why not?
14. What gave Meg the courage to call Lorenzo after she read her father's letter? How do you think Meg convinced Lorenzo he was worth the risk of being loved?