

FOUNTAINS AND SECRETS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What was your favorite line or scene? Why?
2. Which characters did you most enjoy meeting? Why?
3. Which character do you think grew the most during the story?
4. As was normal at the time, Livia's husband was chosen by her father (in *Death and a Crocodile*), and the couple's expectations of marriage are not based on the Christian ideals we have today. What struggles do you foresee in their relationship? What gives you hope that they will one day experience the kind of loving marriage Pansa and Placida enjoy?
5. Avitus and Livia both begin the novel keeping secrets from the other. Why did they think that was a good idea? Why were they not willing to trust each other?
6. Livia thought Avitus would be pleased that she found information on Jonas and Damaris. Why wasn't Avitus as appreciative as she'd hoped? Have you ever been disappointed when your efforts weren't appreciated?
7. A traumatic incident can strongly affect a person's identity and beliefs. How do you think Avitus has been shaped by the childhood burn incident?
8. Livia's annoyance at her husband colored her initial impression of Grim. What does she think of him by the end of the book? Talk about the ways we can misjudge a person and how to avoid making that mistake.
9. Livia is fortunate to have mentors like Placida and Auntie Livilla to advise her. What piece of wisdom from the book did you particularly appreciate?
10. Many of the main characters are unconventional in some way. Discuss how they are unique and what that adds to their characters.
11. *Dignitas* is a very important quality to a Roman gentleman. Discuss how the teachings of Jesus clash with this concept.
12. Were you surprised that Gracchus got away without punishment? How does that make you feel? Is it ever right for us to take justice into our own hands?

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Quietly Unconventional