

SHADOWED LOYALTY

BY ROSEANNA M. WHITE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

AT THE START OF THE BOOK, Sabina feels lost and superfluous in her world after their family's circumstances had changed so drastically within the past couple years. Have you ever not known what to do with yourself? Have you ever struggled to find your purpose?

LORENZO THOUGHT HE WAS PROTECTING SABINA but in fact hurt her deeply. Have you ever been in a situation—on either side—where people who love each other actually do the opposite of what the other needs, though their intentions are good?

THOUGH SABINA ALWAYS “KNEW” WHAT HER FATHER DID FOR A LIVING, she doesn't truly see the reality until he's arrested. Have you ever had to confront uncomfortable truths about your family or friends? Did you find it difficult to love them afterward? Or was it perhaps difficult to accept the truth about them?

ROMAN O'REILLY IS, FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, fighting for justice and against corruption. Do you think he was right to use Sabina as a means of bringing down her father? Have you read or watched other stories where the hero does this—did you root for him or against him in that situation? How could he have acted differently?

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER? Your least favorite? Why?

Isadora and Mary react very differently to their mother's illness and their father's abandonment. Are you more likely to embrace distractions and turn to escapism when burdens are heavy or try to carry them all alone? Why do you think neither sister had told anyone how desperate their situation had become?

LORENZO OBSERVES WITH SORROW how he and his brothers were all taught the same lessons about faith and God, but they still turned into very different people. Have you observed this in your own life or family or community? Why do you think these lessons sink deep into some hearts and are so easily ignored by others?

THE VIBRANT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY OF CHICAGO'S LITTLE ITALY provided the backdrop for this story; in American history, some communities clung to the ways they brought with them, and others abandoned their mother language and culture and embraced American traditions. How connected are you with your own family's history? Was it preserved? Do you know your family's immigration story (if you have one) or how they ended up in the particular community you grew up in? Do you ever wish your ancestors had done things differently?



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HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT AVA AS THE STORY PROGRESSED? What about how Sabina responded to her at the various points in the story?

SALLY DOESN'T BEGIN AS A VERY SYMPATHETIC CHARACTER. Did that change for you as you learned her history? Knowing that her father abused her in the name of God, what do you think it would take to show her the true beauty of Christ's sacrifice? What do you imagine the future holds for her?

WHAT DO YOU THINK LORENZO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS BROTHERS will look like in the future? What about Sabina with her family?

WERE THERE ANY THEMES OR SCENES THAT RESONATED WITH YOU and made you view things in a way you hadn't before? Do you have any questions or thoughts lingering after you finished the book?



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