

Southfield Public Library

The Scent of Color by Lana LaFortune

Discussion questions used at October 9 & 10, 2018

Questions taken from the book, page 386:

1. Remi has PTSD. What are his symptoms? Do they change over time?
2. Deidre attempts to help Remi with his nightmares. What does she do wrong? What does she do right?
3. Four characters have or acquire a major handicap. Discuss how each copes and whether their coping mechanisms are effective?
4. Was Remi justified in his attack on Jerry? What insights did he acquire about the nature of their relationship as he traveled with Deidre?
5. How does the relationship between Deidre and her mother change? What contributes to that change?
6. What subliminal message did Remi miss in the sapphire dream?
7. Remi and Deidre had a running conversation about God. They came up with more questions than answers. Discuss the Existential notion of the Absurd that basically suggests random things happen to random people at random times, i.e. bad things happen to good people. Could Remi's professed atheism be bravado?
8. What significance does the title, "The Scent of Color" acquire by the end of the novel? What other smells were highlighted?
9. Travel to various countries was the vehicle to carry the story along. Which countries were most challenging or enjoyable for Remi? For Deidre? Where would you like to travel, and why?

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General discussion questions

- For the person who chose the book – What made you want to read it? What made you pick it for the book club? Did it live up to your expectations?
- How is the book structured? First person? Third person? Flashbacks? Narrative devices? Do you think the author did a good job with it?
- How would you describe the author’s writing style? Concise? Flowery? How is language used in this book? Read aloud a passage that really struck you. How does that passage relate to the book as a whole?
- How effective is the author’s use of plot twists? Were you able to predict certain things before they happened? Did the author keep you guessing until the end?
- Did the book hold your interest?
- How important is the setting to the story? Did you feel like you were somewhere else? Did the time setting make a difference in the story? Did the author provide enough background information for you to understand the setting and time placement?
- Which is stronger in the book – the characters or the plots?
- Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why? And to whom?

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Title:

Discussion questions taken from a website:

website address:



Palazzo Dario-haunted palazzo on the Grande Canale; p. 309, Woody Allen almost bought.

<http://www.lorismarazzi.com/works.html>

The wood carving sculpture shop Remi and Deidra visited in Venice?