

BLOODLINE AND WINE

by Kelly Jones

Questions for discussion

Have you read the book? Some of these questions might reveal elements of the plot.

1. How does the title take on additional significance as the story develops? Do you see the *bloodline* in the title as referring to characters in the story? Were there surprises in how these possible blood relationships turned out? How does the *bloodline* of the destroyed wine figure into the plot?
2. At the beginning of the novel, Dana reflects on her friendship with Father Borelli and refers to it as *odd*. How would you characterize their relationship? What draws them together? Do they have anything in common? Do you see growth in the relationship by the end of the story?
3. The Borelli/Antonelli family takes great pride in the *Borelli Brunello di Montalcino* label. How do consumers and society in general place value on labels? Do we tend to put *labels* on people? How might the characters in the story label one another, and do any of these perceptions change?
4. Did you question Winkie's intense desire to buy the Veronesi winery? How do you see his relationship with Giovanna Veronesi developing in the future?
5. Marco describes the Brunello as a wine made for aging and worth the wait. How do *waiting* and *aging* apply to various characters in the story? How do you see Dana dealing with her own aging? Do people improve with age?
6. The author uses the sense of smell in many ways in the story. How does smell play into the plot? Are there certain smells that bring back memories for you? How do you think it would affect your life if you had no sense of smell?
7. As the story progresses, the reader learns of the past relationship between Giovanni Borelli and Giovanna Veronesi. Do you think that Giovanna reveals the true reason she called off the marriage many years ago? Can relationships survive if important facts are hidden?
8. There are numerous relationships developed throughout the story. How do you see the relationship evolving between Dana and Mia? Dana and Leo?
9. The loss of the valuable Brunello wine is an important part of the story's plot. How do the different characters' personal losses become part of the story? How does the undercurrent of Dana's loss of her son affect her relationships with others?