

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Grab your girlfriends and have a discussion at your local coffeehouse about this book! Here are a few to get you started:

1. What was your favorite part of the novel, and why?
2. What part of the novel did you not like? Why?
3. What would be hardest about living in 1332? No showers? No hair products? No forks? No technology? No cars? Using a chamber pot? What would you miss most?
4. Did you relate to Gabi? Why? What is it about her that you see in yourself?
5. If you had been Gabi, would you have fallen for Marcello or Luca? Why?
6. Is it ever okay to steal another girl's guy? Why or why not? Why was it okay for Gabi to do so? Or was it?
7. At first, Gabi thinks she can work things out on her own. Find her own way back to the tomb and through it. She's kind of prideful and stubborn about it, even (sneaking out of the castle, climbing down the wall, taking off on the horse, etc.). How does pride sometimes keep us stuck in a tough situation?
8. Do you think all things, good or bad, happen for a reason? Why or why not?
9. Gabi wonders why God has allowed this to happen to her. If it happened to you, would you think it was God? Or something else?
10. What do you think of the concept of "seizing the day"? Meaning, making the most of what you have, right now, right here? What does living that out do for a person?

11. When Gabi is hovering between life and death, she thinks about what she is living for. What do you live for?
12. If one of your parents died, what is one thing they always say that you'd always remember—that would actually help you deal with life?
13. If you could go back to any time period, when would it be and why? (It may be medieval, like this book.) What would be the toughest part of living in those years for you? What would you miss most?

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

Q. You've written contemporary romances, historical women's fiction, general fiction, and more. Why turn to YA fiction now?

A. I'm always drawn to a new challenge. And since I have teen and tween daughters in the house, it's been natural for me to start reading some of their fiction alongside them. I was hooked with the Twilight series and Hunger Games books. I wanted to give them something they could hand to their friends as well as read themselves.

Q. Have they read Waterfall?

A. My eldest has. Olivia and her friends were my very first readers. They set me straight on things that would make other kids roll their eyes. Then I handed it off to more readers in my focus group, and they helped me refine the book further.

Q. Was it hard to write in the medieval time period?

A. To a certain extent. I wrote a medieval series for adults, called The Gifted (*The Begotten, The Betrayed, The Blessed*), that I totally loved writing, so in some ways, it was just going back to what I'd learned for that one. Thankfully, I'd spent a lot of time researching for that, so I didn't have to start over!

Q. Why Italy?

A. Because I'm completely in love with Italy. This is the first year in four that we haven't been back, and I'm in withdrawal.

Q. You got to go for research?

A. Yes! Three times for *The Gifted*, and once, last fall, for this series. There's just something about the place that is totally romantic, warm, and welcoming. It sucks you in. Don't go. Because then you'll be like me and miss it when you're away too long.

Q. What's next for Gabi and Lia?

A. Mmm, I just wrapped *Cascade* (book 2), and I think it's a really solid second book. The adventure and love story continue, of course. But it's even more dramatic and suspenseful than this one!