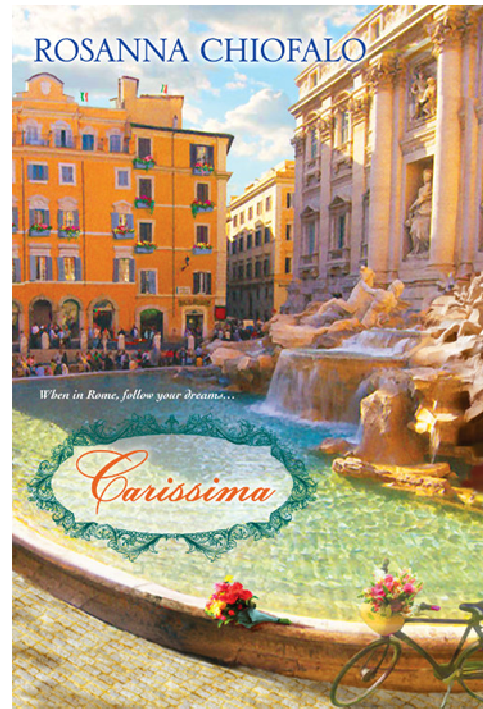


Carissima by Rosanna Chiofalo

Reading Group Guide



1. Why do you think Francesca is obsessed with being adored by her public? Why do you think the neighbors in Astoria are so fascinated by Francesca, besides the obvious reason of her being a star?
2. Do you think Signora Tesca was justified in holding a grudge against Francesca for all those years? How much do you think jealousy played a part in her refusal to talk to Francesca for so long?
3. How was Pia's relationship with her late sister Erica different than Francesca's relationship with her sister? How have both of these women been influenced by their sisters?
4. Compare and contrast Pia and Francesca. How are their dreams and goals similar? How are they different?
5. We first meet Signora Tesca in *Bella Fortuna*. What were your first impressions of her in *Bella Fortuna*? Did your impressions change when you encountered her again in *Carissima*? If so, how? The same question for Antoniella. How have your initial impressions about her changed from the first book to this one?

6. Francesca is infatuated with jewelry almost as much as she is with being loved by her fans. Why do you think she loves jewelry so much? Of the gifts that Rocco gives her, which was your favorite?
7. Do you feel that Gregory's sudden discovery as an artist goes to his head? Why do you think many people become more self-absorbed when they find fame and/or success in their lives?
8. Do you feel sorry for Francesca in the beginning of the novel when you learn that her five engagements never resulted in marriage? How has her decision to remain single shaped the person she's become? Do you feel sorry for her toward the end of the novel? Do you think she's grown?
9. Francesca chooses to wear *il lutto*, the dress for mourning, after her sister dies. This custom has been losing popularity in Italy over the years. What do you think of it? Were you surprised that a glamorous star like Francesca chose to honor this decades-old Italian custom?
10. How has Pia's trip to Rome changed her? Do you think she would have had the same insights if she had not gone to Rome?