

Elizabeth Street

by Laurie Fabiano

1. Giovanna leaves the comfort of her family in Italy to forge a new life in America. How much of her strength is shaped by necessity and circumstance?
2. Discuss Giovanna's second marriage. Why does she marry a man she does not love? How does this decision shape her life?
3. Compare any personal struggles you have faced that mirror Giovanna's challenges.
4. Talk about Giovanna's relationship with Signora Scalici. Why does she lose trust in her? Would you have reacted the same way?
5. Which characters did you find most compelling? Did they feel believable?
6. How are the male characters portrayed? What motivates Rocco?
7. Knowing the story is based on true events, does this change how you feel about the characters or the danger they faced?
8. Discuss the book's tone and use of flashbacks. Did these add to your reading experience?
9. Compare the immigrant experience of the early 1900s to today. What has changed and what has not?
10. The novel highlights Italian food, culture, and tight family bonds. How do these elements shape the characters' choices?
11. There are several references to the Statue of Liberty. How did these moments affect you?
12. What circumstances allowed the Black Hand to gain power? How does this compare to corruption today?
13. Reflect on your reading experience. What were the book's strengths and weaknesses?