

THE HOMEMADE GOD

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BOOK CLUB KIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do the relationships between the siblings—Goose, Susan, Iris, and Netta—evolve throughout the story? What events or revelations most significantly impact their dynamics? Which sibling did you most identify with, and why?
2. How does Goose's journey reflect the novel's broader themes of family and self-discovery? What are some pivotal moments for him?
3. The lake house in Italy is a significant setting in the narrative. How does this environment influence the characters' interactions and the unfolding of the plot? What setting is significant to you and your family? What memorable events have transpired there?
4. Discuss Bella-Mae's role in the story. How does her presence affect the siblings' quest for answers about their father?
5. Their father's missing painting is a crucial plot point. How does the search for this painting symbolize the siblings' search for understanding and closure? Have any objects taken on outsized significance for you in the throes of grief?
6. How does the novel explore the themes of loss and reconciliation? What moments particularly highlight these themes?
7. How does Susan's character change from the beginning to the end of the narrative? What did you make of her relationship with Netta and how it changes in the wake of Vic's death? What are the key factors that drive her transformation?
8. What secrets are revealed about the siblings' father, and how do these revelations affect their perceptions of him and each other? Have you ever discovered something about a family member that changed your perception? Discuss.
9. Iris has a complex relationship to her past. How does her journey over the course of the novel reflect her attempts to reconcile with her history?
10. Discuss the scene where the siblings use stickers to claim items from the villa. What does this moment reveal about their personalities and relationships?
11. How did you feel about *The Homemade God's* conclusion? Did it provide a sense of closure or leave you with lingering questions?
12. What do you imagine happens to the siblings after the events of the novel? How might their experiences at the lake house influence their futures?
13. How important do you think reconciliation and forgiveness are in maintaining family relationships? Are there situations where reconciliation might not be possible or advisable?

LIMONCELLO SPRITZ RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 oz. limoncello
- 3 oz. Prosecco
- 1 oz. soda water
- Ice cubes
- Lemon slices for garnish
- Fresh mint leaves for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill a glass with ice cubes.
2. Pour the limoncello over the ice.
3. Add the Prosecco and soda water.
4. Stir gently to combine.
5. Garnish with lemon slices and mint leaves.
6. Serve immediately and enjoy the refreshing taste of Italy!



CITRUS FIZZ MOCKTAIL RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 oz. fresh lemon juice
- 1 oz. simple syrup (adjust to taste)
- 3 oz. sparkling water
- Ice cubes
- Lemon slices for garnish
- Fresh mint leaves for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill a glass with ice cubes.
2. Add the fresh lemon juice and simple syrup.
3. Top with sparkling water.
4. Stir gently to mix.
5. Garnish with lemon slices and mint leaves.
6. Serve chilled for a refreshing non-alcoholic option.



ITALIAN ANTIPASTO PLATTER RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:

- Assorted cured meats (such as prosciutto, salami, and capicola)
- Variety of cheeses (such as mozzarella, provolone, and Parmigiano-Reggiano)
- Mixed olives (such as Kalamata and Castelvetrano)
- Marinated artichoke hearts
- Roasted red peppers
- Cherry tomatoes
- Breadsticks or sliced baguette
- Fresh basil leaves for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Arrange the cured meats and cheeses on a large platter.
2. Add the olives, artichoke hearts, roasted red peppers, and cherry tomatoes.
3. Place breadsticks or sliced baguette around the platter.
4. Garnish with fresh basil leaves.
5. Serve as a delightful appetizer that captures the essence of Italian gatherings.



FAMILY TREE

VIC

The father of Goose, Susan, Iris, and Netta. An artist in his seventies, he has an outsized role in the lives of each of his children, which often causes tension and competition between them.

BELLA - MAE

Vic's much-younger partner. She is a complex character with a mysterious background whose presence escalates fractures between the siblings.

NETTA

Vic's oldest, who takes on a paternal role to her siblings. She's suspicious of Bella-Mae and determined to protect the family from her.

SUSAN

The second child. She looks up to Netta, and is a caretaker of sorts to Vic, until this role is threatened by Bella-Mae.

GOOSE

Vic's son. Goose struggles throughout the novel with his own path and failed career as an artist living in Vic's shadow.

IRIS

The youngest sibling. Her siblings see her as fragile, but Iris is determined to prove that she can take care of herself.