

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Harlot's Sauce

A Memoir of Food, Family, Love, Loss and Greece

by Patricia Volonakis Davis

1. This book starts with the author traveling to Greece with her Greek boyfriend of three months. What problems did she encounter? What was his family's view of Patricia? Discuss their comment (page 3) to Gregori, "Think about whether it's a smart thing to get involved with an American girl. After all, she's a nice girl, but.... she's not like us." What was Patricia's family's view of Gregori?
2. Chapter one discusses Patricia's love (which goes back to sixth grade) of Greece and its mythology. What else appealed to her about Gregori? What was her reasoning of why her relationship with her friend Kurt wouldn't have worked?
3. Why did Patricia's mom disagree about her wanting to attend college? What was her father's opinion? How did Patricia overcome their view? What other experience did Patricia have that showed her determination?
4. Chapter Three mentions the 'evil eye'. Patricia tells her friend Donna the Greek-Orthodox, Catholic, Indian, Jewish and Protestant view. What was her Donna's opinion? What was her reasoning of Patricia's problems? Discuss your view of the 'evil eye'.
5. Chapter nine discusses family relationships. What was it like with Gregori and his mother? What was Patricia's view of being a daughter-in-law? How did her mother-in-law treat Patricia with her newborn son Nicholas? Why didn't Patricia's parents speak to her for four years?
6. How would you describe Gregori? Why didn't the move to Greece make him happy? How did Patricia and their son manage to settle in? What were the positive and negative outcomes of living in Greece for seven years? Would you move to make your marriage work? What if it was outside of the U.S.?
7. Page 244 mentions the Greek accountant Eris. How did she help Patricia with her business? Why was she the 'tipping point' for the divorce? How did Gregori handle it? How did their son handle their divorce?
8. Where you concerned when Gregori had his son in Greece by himself? What could have been the outcome when the parents got divorced and Nicholas stayed with his father the rest of the summer?
- 9.(page 250) What was the political situation in Greece in 1999? Why did Patricia change her mind after discussing with her father about leaving Greece immediately?

10. In Chapter Sixteen and pages 263 the author gives a reflection about her marriage and her memoir. Do you think Patricia gave a candid view? What do you think Gregori and his family feel about her book?

11. Others' reviews on Amazon include: "The author basically writes about what a jerk Gregori was to her, such as He wouldn't make the salad! He was bad in bed! He let his mother boss him around! It's good fodder for marriage counseling, but not so much for a memoir". Also, another reader states: " It's a story of growing up, empowerment, and finding your voice". Which reader do you agree with?