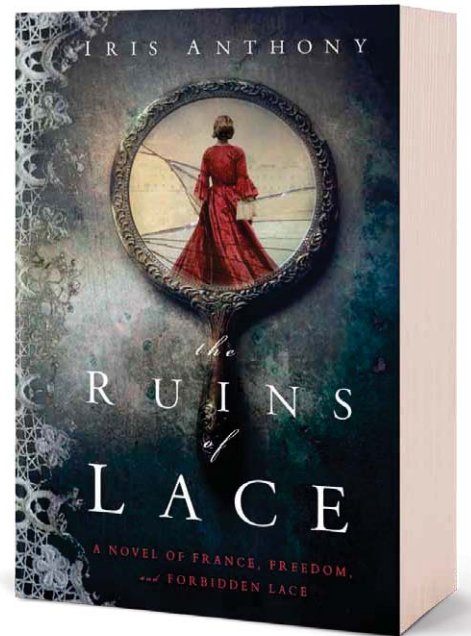


Discussion
QUESTIONS



- 1:** Did you have a favorite character? Which one? Why did that particular character appeal to you? What was it about that particular story line that drew you?
- 2:** Is there anything these seven disparate characters had in common?
- 3:** In your opinion, what was the most tragic part of Katharina's life?
- 4:** Do you agree with Heilwich's opinion that she was a murderess? She certainly intended to murder Herry Stuer. Do you think she ought to have gone through with it? How would the story have changed if she had? How would she have changed? What other outcomes did her choice affect?
- 5:** How do you navigate the world? In blacks and whites or with a palette of grays? Which approach is more terrifying to you? Why?
- 6:** What did Denis most want? Do you think that he will achieve it? Should he? Was he asking too much from life?

- 7:** Denis was meant to be a representation of all of us. At some point, we all have to take off our rose-colored glasses and face the world as it truly is. At what point did you have to do this? What did Denis lose and what did he gain? In your life, what did you lose and what did you gain?
- 8:** A Flemish woman berates Alexandre in Chapter 14: “Are you too good for God? Is that it? You’re only harming yourself. And besides, you can only be as clean as you are.” What did she mean?
- 9:** If you could tell the dog anything, what would you say to him?
- 10:** What would you say to the count?
- 11:** Was the count a sympathetic villain? Who made him the way he was? At what points in the story could he have made different decisions? What would it have required of him?
- 12:** Did Lisette live or did she die?
- 13:** In some ways, Lisette and the Count are mirrors of each other. What similarities did they have? What differences? Both face ruin but they respond to the prospect in different ways. Why?
- 14:** Can you take worth away from someone or do they surrender it?
- 15:** Whose fault was it that the lace smuggling industry flourished in seventeenth-century Europe? The King’s? The courtiers’? The lace makers’?
- 16:** Is the provenance of consumer goods important to you? Why or why not?



I7: Katharina and the dog are both innocent victims in a world steeped in corruption. Did their lack of guile help or hinder their survival?

I8: When has corruption knocked on your door? What was your response?

I9: Is there an antidote to corruption?

20: What responsibility, if any, do you have for the corruption you see going on around you?

21: Is corruption a result of capitalism or is it a result of totalitarianism?

22: Each character was offered a chance to either corrupt others or to aid in furthering corruption. What choice did each character make?

23: What might cause a good person to make a bad choice?

