



IAM READERS GUILD

Discussion Guide

Dark Water by Robert Clark

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1. What did you think of the book? Was it new information to you? Were there places that confused you? What was most effective?
2. Clark usually writes novels. How does this book show the influence of that form of writing on this kind of history, told through those who were there? Is this an effective historical device? Why or why not?
3. The book lays vignette upon vignette to tell the story of Florence's artists and art and build toward its climax. How do these interlocking vignettes function to tell the story? If you've been to Florence, do they make you see the city through new eyes? If not, how do they affect your view of the place?
4. Clark seems to question why (and whether) art matters so much in the face of disaster. What do you think the answer to this question is? Is there art that is not worth saving?

The questions below are merely prompts to get your discussion going. Keep a brief record of the most interesting ideas that come up during your discussion, and after the meeting, send us a summary (around a paragraph long) to post to the Readers Guild blog! (Email your summary to readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org.)