

# **Death and Judgment Study Guide**

## **Death and Judgment by Donna Leon**

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# Plot Summary

Death and Judgment by Donna Leon is one of the author's Guido Brunetti mysteries. Guido Brunetti is the commissario of police in Venice, Italy. Brunetti is known for his devotion to family and the job. The man will do whatever is necessary to bring people to justice while attempting to maintain a sense of ethics. Like many Venetians, Brunetti likes wine and takes great pleasure in spending afternoons with his wife and daughter at home.

At work Brunetti tends to be somewhat mysterious. It is obvious he has had clashes with his superiors in the past, yet he does what is necessary to get the job done. He does not suck up to anyone. There is a great deal of tension between Brunetti and his immediate superior, Vice-Questore Patta. Brunetti does have a good relationship with his subordinate and co-worker Sergeant Vianello and police consultant Elettra Zorzi.

The book starts with an accident taking place near the city of Treviso. A truck from Romania derails and the driver and several women are killed. The entire incident is a mystery as is the presence of the women.

Prominent attorney Carlo Trevisan is murdered on the intercity train to Trieste. There seems to be no obvious motive, but the case is assigned to Brunetti. Not long after the murder of Trevisan, Rino Favero, a prominent accountant in Padua is also murdered. Although the two murders have no obvious links, Brunetti has a gut feeling that they are connected. When Trevisan's phone number is found in Favero's notebook, Brunetti's feelings are confirmed.

Brunetti connects with a police captain in Padua, Capitano della Corte. After Favero's autopsies are stolen, the murder is falsely determined to be a suicide. Because the case is no longer a homicide, Brunetti and della Corte must continue the investigation in secret. There are many players in the mystery, including Trevisan's widow, fellow lawyer Salvatore Martucci, and Ubaldo Lotto, Trevisan's brother-in-law and business manager. Brunetti likes none of these people but has no proof that any of them are links to the crimes.

When Lotto is also murdered, Brunetti is sure that the three men and their murders are linked in some way. After tracing phone numbers to a seedy bar in Mestre, Brunetti and della Corte discover that the men were involved in a widespread prostitution ring and distribution of snuff films. They may have also been involved in a pharmaceuticals cartel but of that there is no proof.

Franca Trevisan finally admits to knowing about her husband's business but seems to have little remorse. Brunetti and della Corte find the last person to be seen with Favero and learn her identity. Brunetti confronts the woman, Signora Ceroni and she confesses to the three murders saying that she performed a great right for society because the men were filthy pigs. She also confides to Brunetti, the high level positions of some of



the people involved in the international cartel to transport prostitutes. The women who had been in the truck in Trivisio were being brought into the country to work the streets.

Brunetti takes Ceroni to the Questura for holding until morning. When Brunetti arrives the next morning he finds that members of Special Branch had taken the woman to Padua, although he had left specific instructions that no one was to go near the prisoner. Brunetti immediately calls della Corte and is informed that Ceroni has supposedly committed suicide.



# Chapters 1-9

## Chapters 1-9 Summary

The story begins in the mountains separating northern Italy from Austria. Although it is springtime, there has been an unexpected winter storm that is causing dangerous road conditions. Many roads and businesses are closed due to the foul weather. While people are being extremely cautious, particularly in the mountains, there have been some accidents. While traveling in the area of Tarvisio, a sixteen-wheeled truck going 50 kilometers per hour and with Romanian license plates, brakes too hard on a curve and plummets off the side of a cliff. The truck lands in a gully and is badly damaged. Without thinking about their own safety or the treacherous condition of the terrain, several other truck drivers pull off the road and try to help. The men make their way into the gully to examine the driver and condition of the truck. The driver is dead. While some of the men tend to the driver and try to figure out what went wrong, other men look for a driving partner. There is no one else in the cab of the truck, so the men venture out into the snow. One person finds a woman who has been thrown from the vehicle and had lost a significant amount of blood. The woman is dead.

One of the drivers said that he first thought the truck had been hauling mannequins because there were bodies of women everywhere. There were at least ten women scattered around the vicinity of the truck, as if they had been riding in the back. All were in overalls. The men quickly decided that the women were real because as one man put it, mannequins don't bleed.

The Italian police finally arrive at the scene of the accident, delayed by the weather. The local police were aghast at the situation and called the carabinieri station in Tarvisio for help. Six carabinieri police men in black uniforms arrive on scene. Meanwhile, young officer Monelli discovers that a woman almost completely buried under planks of lumber is still alive. Monelli wraps his parka around the woman and attempts to keep her as warm as possible while other men attempt to devise a way to remove the planks from the woman's torso and legs without killing her. Despite the efforts of those all around, the woman dies.

The story is picked up by Italian and Austrian newspapers yet no answers are found. The truck is eventually removed from the gully and, along with the driver and women, is returned to Bucharest. The story fades in the presence of fresher stories and is put aside until it is read by Professoressa Paola Falier, wife of Guido Brunetti, commissario of the Venice police.

Avvocato Carlo Trevisan is riding the Intercity Train to Trieste on his way home from work. This is a frequent and routine trip for Trevisan. Trevisan's rail car is nearly empty as people disembark along the route to Trieste. Cristina Merli, a clerk, makes the rounds and asks for Trevisan's ticket. Trevisan does not respond. Cristina attempts to be polite but has seen this trick before from people who are trying to avoid paying the fare.



Cristina learned early on that the trick is pulled by all kinds of people, whether or not they can afford the fare. After a couple of attempts at waking Trevisan, Cristina realizes that the man is dead. Cristina becomes alarmed and doesn't know how to handle the situation. The train will soon pull into its station and people will be hustling and bustling to board while current passengers attempt to disembark. Cristina cannot allow people to see the body or disturb the scene. In a moment of clarity, Cristina pulls the emergency brake and waits for the police.

The police arrive and Cristina directs them to Trevisan's body. The car is cordoned off and the people on board are questioned. No one on the train saw anything unusual, and the train car is detached so that the rest of the train can leave the station with its new passengers.

Police commissario Guido Brunetti reads about Trevisan's murder in the newspaper the next morning. Brunetti wonders why he wasn't called to the scene, unless the case was given to a fellow commissario. Brunetti was just finishing up a case involving widespread corruption and would have been able to take the case.

As soon as Brunetti gets into the office, he is told that his boss, Vice-Questore Patta, wants to see him right away. At Patta's office, Brunetti has a conversation with Doctressa Elettra Zorzi, a highly educated psychiatrist who has decided to work for the police as a consultant. Patta is angry because Patta had to take the call to go to the scene of Trevisan's murder when Brunetti couldn't be reached. Patta says that the railway botched the scene.

Patta grudgingly gives the case to Brunetti but wants reassurances that Brunetti will handle Trevisan's widow with care as the family has social prominence. Brunetti does not promise. The commissario resents being told how to act but arguing with Patta is a fruitless exercise.

The case is somewhat puzzling to Brunetti because Trevisan wasn't robbed, despite his obvious wealth. Brunetti is pleased to learn that the judge on the case will be Judge Vantuno, a woman who is cooperative with police investigations.

In uncovering general information about the Trevisan family, Brunetti finds out that Elettra's sister, Barbara, is a doctor who had formerly treated Mrs. Trevisan and her daughter, 14-year-old Francesca. The year before, Mrs. Trevisan went into a rage at Barbara for not revealing the source of her daughter's medical condition. Barbara released the family from her care. Brunetti arranges to meet with Barbara to discuss the widow's personality. Brunetti wants to know if the woman is prone to rages. Barbara relays the story but doesn't feel the information could help much.

Brunetti goes home for lunch and spends time with his wife and daughter. Brunetti and the daughter, Chiara, have a good relationship and play around a lot. Paola is not always tolerant of their play acting.

Sergeant Vianello and Brunetti get together to discuss the case. Vianello relays information regarding Trevisan's staff and says many of them weren't in the office. While



Trevisan's secretary was visibly distraught, the other lawyer Vianello met didn't seem too upset.

Brunetti is finally able to make arrangements to meet Mrs. Trevisan, despite objections from the woman's brother. The woman seems upset but not as distraught as Brunetti was led to believe. The commissario believes there may be secrets in the family, particularly because the woman said she knows nothing about her husband's business.

## Chapters 1-9 Analysis

The incident involving the truck and the women seems to be mysterious and disturbing yet is soon put aside due to other news. Paola Falier, the commissario's wife, seems to be on top of the news and crimes that may come under her husband's jurisdiction. The woman is definitely involved in his work and pays attention.

Trevisan's death suggests that there are secrets in the man's life or business; something that could cause murder. Trevisan wasn't robbed, which may or may not have been an oversight on the part of the murderer. Brunetti believes that the murderer may not have been interested in trying to make the scene look like a robbery.

Patta obviously dislikes Brunetti and often tries to hold the commissario under his thumb, a trick that never works. Patta respects Brunetti's work, just not his methods.

The meeting with Barbara Zorzi leaves Brunetti with little more information than he had earlier although he now understands that the widow has a vicious temper.

Having lunch at home with his family is a daily occurrence for Brunetti. Paola tries to get him into conversation about the news but Brunetti insists on eating first. After he sends Chiara out to get wine for lunch, the two play around and act silly. It is clear that Brunetti has an excellent relationship with his daughter.

Brunetti feels that there is something wrong at the Trevisan house. Mrs. Trevisan is surly and cannot understand why she must be bothered. The woman claims to know nothing about her late husband's business, friends, or associates. Brunetti thinks of Paola and knows that such a situation is almost ridiculous, particularly since the Trevisans have been married for 20 years. Brunetti discovers that the person who does know a lot about the business and Trevisan's personal and professional lives is his accountant, who happens to be Mrs. Trevisan's brother.



# Chapters 10-15

## Chapters 10-15 Summary

Prominent accountant Rino Favero is found dead in his garage, and the cause is determined as suicide. After an initial examination, doctors discover 4 milligrams of Roipnal in the man's system. The barbiturate is a strong one and that dose would have rendered Favero unable to walk or drive, much less kill himself. The press is not notified of the change in cause of death as the police investigate.

It is soon discovered that Favero had a list of phone numbers in his possession, including one belonging to Carlo Trevisan. The connection between the two is unclear. Another connection between the two victims are some international calls, as well as two public phones located in a train station and a bar.

Brunetti struggles to make the connection. It is possible that Trevisan and Favero represented people who were involved in one of the ongoing corruption scandals. The commissario thinks the use of Roipnal could be a link to the pharmaceuticals' price-fixing scandal in the region, but the thought is only a possibility. There is no proof.

At home, Chiara tells Brunetti that she has been doing undercover work to find out more about Trevisan's home life through his daughter's best friend. Chiara had discovered information previously and seems to enjoy her role as a spy. Paola becomes furious and says that there will not be a spy living under her roof. Paola tries to explain to Chiara the difference between her father's work and spying on friends. Although the act isn't criminal, it is betrayal and therefore, wrong. After Chiara goes to her room, Paola and Brunetti discuss how so many people don't understand the difference between criminal and wrong, and while Brunetti accepts things as they are for the most part, Paola is frustrated.

Vianello and Brunetti discuss staking out Pinetta's, the bar that is a common link between Favero and Trevisan. No cop on duty seems to fit the bill as someone who would patronize the place. Vianello recommends Sergeant Topa, his ex-partner who was forced into early retirement after being accused of beating up a pedophile. Brunetti doesn't like Topa but finally agrees.

Brunetti gets a call saying that Topa has been arrested for fighting. It turns out that one of the patrons of the bar insulted Topa and the man ended up with a broken nose. Topa arrested himself for his actions but was released. No new information was uncovered.

Brunetti pays a visit to Ubaldo Lotto, Trevisan's brother-in-law, business manager, and accountant. Lotto is a smug man who seems to have little time for Brunetti and makes it clear that he feels all of this is beneath his family. Brunetti is a smart man and plays to these beliefs, acting less than smart about a possible motive regarding Trevisan's murder.





Lotto is reluctant to give over Trevisan's client list but relents when he realizes that Brunetti can get it with a court order. Lotto is no help with the rest of the investigation, vehemently declaring Trevisan's innocence. Just before Brunetti leaves, he casually mentions Rino Favero. Lotto reacts in a manner that cannot be covered up by his feigned disinterest and denial in knowing Favero, except by name. It is obvious to Brunetti that Lotto is lying and is most likely involved in the deaths in some way.

Brunetti is informed that Favero's death has been officially determined as a suicide. According to della Corte, the doctor who performed the initial toxicology report was mistaken and the level of Roipnal was only 2 milligrams, which would allow Favero to drive and take his own life. Conveniently, the body has already been buried and all the reports regarding the autopsy and initial toxicology are missing. Brunetti and della Corte arrange to meet.

## Chapters 10-15 Analysis

It is obvious to Brunetti that there must be a connection between Trevisan and Favero. The mysterious and unidentifiable phone numbers must be important, as are the locations the two men used as communication links. The amount of Roipnal found in Favero's system tells Brunetti that the man was murdered and it seems to be too much of a coincidence that the men died within the same week.

Brunetti is forced to agree with Paola, at least on principal, regarding Chiara's spy activities. Brunetti is secretly proud of Chiara's ability and commitment but agrees that it is wrong to betray her friends. Chiara's reasoning is difficult to fight against but Paola wins out. Brunetti and Paola argue about injustice and never come to any definitive answer.

Vianello's idea of using Topa as an undercover cop at Pinetta's does not thrill Brunetti. Topa has an undercurrent of violence about him and Brunetti doesn't trust the former cop. However, the assignment is relatively easy, so Brunetti agrees. Topa ends up getting into a fight and doesn't learn anything of value, proving that Brunetti was right.

Brunetti's interview with Lotto is brilliant. Lotto is completely self-involved and arrogant so that it is easy for Brunetti to play the inefficient and lowly police officer. Lotto condescends to Brunetti throughout the interview and Brunetti lets him, knowing that this is the best way to get information. Brunetti's plan works, and he learns that there is some connection between Trevisan, Favero, and most likely, Lotto.



# Chapters 16-20

## Chapters 16-20 Summary

Commissario Brunetti and Capitano della Corte meet at Pinetta's bar to discuss the potential link between Trevisan and Favero. When Brunetti arrives at the bar, della Corte is waiting for him. Without even discussing it, the two men immediately launch into a conversation to convince the other people at the bar that they are old friends and are beyond suspicion. Neither man looks like a cop, which helps the situation. Both men are overly loud and talk about unimportant things such as Brunetti's terrible wife and an upcoming hunting trip. The men act as if they are drunk.

After a few minutes, Brunetti and della Corte sit at a private table. The men discuss the people at the bar and try to decide who is receiving phone calls from men such as Trevisan and Favero. No one stands out except for a group of prostitutes and their pimp. After awhile, Brunetti flirts with a prostitute, who comes to the table and sits with the men. Della Corte questions Brunetti's motives but agrees to go along with his colleague's plan. Della Corte leaves Brunetti alone with the prostitute and the two chat and flirt. Brunetti convinces the woman that he is a plumber and doesn't come off as being terribly bright. The prostitute eventually takes Brunetti to her apartment. Moments after they are alone, Brunetti questions the prostitute about where she's from and about the man at the bar who is obviously her pimp. The woman has little to say except that she's been working in the bar since September to stay out of the cold. The pimp has received phone calls, but the woman seems to know little else. Brunetti leaves and meets up with della Corte so they can discuss what to do next. Della Corte is positive that the pimp is on heroin and perhaps that could be an extra reason to hold him in jail along with the prostitution charges. The extra time may be what's needed to make the pimp and the prostitute talk. Brunetti also has a plan to get the prostitute to talk to Elettra since she's a psychiatrist as well as a woman.

Brunetti goes to visit a judge for whom he had once done a great favor. The judge's son had once robbed a pharmacy, and Brunetti answered the call. The pharmacist was uninjured, but the boy was on the floor bleeding. Everyone in Venice knew the boy's father was a Chief Justice, a well-liked and honorable man. The pharmacist didn't press charges since no real harm was done, and Brunetti turned the boy over to his father. The son was sent to rehab and the judge remains grateful to Brunetti for the discretion, even though the son had recently died from an overdose.

The judge listens to Brunetti's questions about Trevisan and is able to answer them. Years before, Trevisan had taken on another lawyer, Salvatore Martucci, who brought his own clients to the firm. Eventually, Martucci was to be made a full partner in the firm but somewhere along the way, Trevisan decided to back out of the deal. With Trevisan dead, Martucci becomes the principal in the firm. Martucci and Mrs. Trevisan are having an affair, which could be a second motive to kill the man. The judge says that Ubaldo Lotto is a slick man and rumor has it that he is the one to see to bribe customs officials



or avoid paying taxes. Brunetti also asks about the mafia and wonders why Francesca used to tell her friends that her parents feared she would be kidnapped. It turns out that Trevisan had some involvement with the Palermo mafia, who were notorious for kidnapping and killing children. Trevisan managed to get away from the mafia somehow but the judge has no specifics.

Giorgio Rondini visits Brunetti at his office, in need of a favor. Rondini had done so much to help Brunetti with the Trevisan investigation that he gave him his attention. Rondini had been convicted of a crime, which was nothing more than a misunderstanding, and needs absolution in order to protect his relationship with his fiancée and her family. Brunetti agrees to take care of it. Knowing that Rondini and Elettra have the power to erase the man's police record and that Elettra could have written a letter of absolution, Brunetti questions her about the meeting. Elettra simply smiles and without a word lets Brunetti know that he has just learned a valuable lesson. Elettra is pleased that Brunetti is finally figuring out why it is helpful to help those who have been so forthcoming, to make sure the relationship stays that way.

Ubaldo Lotto is found dead in his car in Mestre, shot by someone sitting in the passenger seat. The man who is called upon to identify the body is Salvatore Martucci. Vianello lets Brunetti know that Martucci was the man who had shown no emotion regarding Trevisan's death. When Brunetti attempts to question Martucci, the attorney is uncooperative. Martucci becomes angry when Brunetti mentions Franca Trevisan. Martucci reluctantly agrees to answer questions from the police. Although questions about Franca Trevisan don't seem to bother him, questions about the firm and his relationship with Lotto seem to make the attorney nervous. Martucci has no alibi for the night before, but Brunetti lets him go.

Patta summons Brunetti and asks about his involvement in the Favero case. Brunetti says there are links between Favero, Trevisan and Lotto and he believes all three murders are related. Patta tells Brunetti to leave the Favero investigation to the Padua police.

Della Corte calls Brunetti to say that a waiter from a local restaurant called and said that he had seen Favero the night he died. Brunetti and della Corte have lunch at the restaurant and speak with the waiter who had just found out about the death. Favero had been with a woman, a potential business associate. The waiter describes her and the situation as best he can. As the waiter is prepared to leave, he offers to give the men the woman's reading glasses, which she had left behind. The waiter is fascinated by the bendable frames and points them out to Brunetti and della Corte. Della Corte is also fascinated and the men discuss the frames. Brunetti says that Paola had just purchased new glasses that were similar. Because of the expensive and Japanese manufacturer, Brunetti says that the frames will be easy to trace.



## Chapters 16-20 Analysis

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The judge listens to Brunetti's questions about Trevisan and is able to answer all of them within a few minutes. Years before, Trevisan had taken on another lawyer, Salvatore Martucci, who brought his own clients to the firm. Eventually, Martucci was to be made a full partner in the firm but somewhere along the way, Trevisan decided to back out of the deal. With Trevisan dead, Martucci becomes the principal in the firm. Martucci and Mrs. Trevisan are having an affair which could be a second motive to kill the man. The judge says that Ubaldo Lotto is a slick man and rumor has it that he is the one to see if one wishes to bribe customs officials or avoid paying taxes. Brunetti also asks about the mafia and wonders why Francesca used to tell her friends that her parents feared she would be kidnapped. It turns out that Trevisan had some involvement with the Palermo mafia, who were notorious for kidnapping and killing children. Trevisan managed to get away from the mafia somehow but the judge has no specifics.

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had been convicted of a crime which was nothing more than a misunderstanding and needs absolution in order to protect his relationship with his fiancée and her family. Brunetti agrees to take care of it. Knowing that Rondini and Elettra have the power to erase the man's police record and that Elettra could have written a letter of absolution, Brunetti questions her about the meeting. Elettra simply smiles and without a word lets Brunetti know that he has just learned a valuable lesson. Elettra is pleased that Brunetti is finally figuring out why it is helpful to help those who have been so forthcoming, to make sure the relationship stays that way.

Ubaldo Lotto, brother -in-law and business manager to Carlo Trevisan, is found dead in his car. The car had been found along the road in Mestre. The police determine that Lotto was shot by someone sitting in the passenger seat. The summer heat caused bloating to Lott's body and the police claim it will be difficult to determine the exact time of death. Although Brunetti is in Mestre and therefore out of his jurisdiction, the commissario makes a suggestion. Because the motor was running Brunetti suggests that investigators will be able to establish a time by the amount of gas that had been used.

Brunetti and Sergeant Vianello go to the morgue to get more information about Lotto's death. While there, they discover that the man who was called upon to identify the body is Salvatore Martucci. Vianello reminds Brunetti that there was a lawyer in Trevisan's office who seemed completely cold regarding the man's death. The lawyer who had shown no emotion regarding Trevisan's death was Salvatore Martucci. When Brunetti attempts to question Martucci, the attorney is uncooperative. Martucci becomes angry when Brunetti mentions Franca Trevisan. Eventually, Martucci calms down and reluctantly agrees to answer questions from the police. Although questions about Franca Trevisan don't seem to bother him, questions about the firm and his relationship with Lotto seem to make the attorney uncharacteristically nervous. Martucci has no alibi for the night before but Brunetti lets him go. Brunetti plans to question Martucci again at a later date.

Patta summons Brunetti and asks about his involvement in the Favero case. Brunetti says there are links between Favero, Trevisan and Lotto and he believes all three murders are related. Patta tells Brunetti to leave the Favero investigation to the Padua police. Patta takes little interest in Brunetti's work unless it is to criticize. Patta's actions leave Brunetti believing that someone called Patta's office and ordered him to restrain Brunetti regarding the Favero murder.

Della Corte calls Brunetti to say that a waiter from a local restaurant in Padua called the Questura and said that he had seen Favero the night of the murder. Brunetti and della Corte arrange to have lunch at the restaurant and speak with the waiter. The waiter apologized for not coming forward sooner but he had not seen a newspaper and therefore had just found out about the death. Favero had been with a woman, a potential business associate. The waiter describes her and the situation as best he can. As the waiter is prepared to leave, he offers to give the men the woman's reading glasses, which she had left behind. The waiter is fascinated by the bendable frames and points them out to Brunetti and della Corte. Della Corte is also fascinated and the men

discuss the frames. Brunetti says that Paola had just purchased new glasses that were similar. Suddenly, Brunetti gets a brainstorm. Brunetti remembers the conversation with Paola regarding the frames. The glasses are rather expensive and are imported from a Japanese manufacturer. These factors lead Brunetti to believe that the frames will be easy to trace.



# Chapters 21-26

## Chapters 21-26 Summary

Brunetti finally manages to get the list of Trevisan's clients and is surprised by the number of powerful and wealthy people identified on the roster. While some are reputed to be involved with crime, others are above reproach. Regardless of the names, there is no way to tell which clients are legitimate and which were on the list as a front for illegal payments and other services involving the cartel.

The decision to trace the expensive glasses through area opticians pays off. The person who owns the glasses has been seen with Favero before and may well be involved in the man's murder. Brunetti follows the lead and goes to visit Signora Ceroni, a woman who operates a travel agency. After Brunetti confirms that the woman is the rightful owner of the glasses, the commissario begins to question Ceroni about the dinner with Favero and any potential relationship that may have existed between the two. Reluctantly, Ceroni admits to having dinner with Favero that night. However, she denies involvement in anything else except a three-year affair, which had evolved into little more than a friendship. Brunetti realizes that Ceroni isn't going to say any more. The detective leaves but isn't finished with the woman yet.

The prostitute from the bar and her pimp are brought into the Questura for interview. Brunetti forms a shaky connection with the prostitute who tells her story, as common as it may be. She finally admits that many of the girls on the streets are dying but that no one will do anything about it. The girl isn't sure how all the other women are dying and is not sure if it is murder. The prostitute reveals that the women involved in the truck accident in Tarvisio were being shipped into Italy to be put onto the streets. Brunetti begins to grasp the breadth and width of the prostitution ring. Brunetti inadvertently says something to put the woman back on guard, and he knows there will be no more forthcoming information from this particular source.

Brunetti faces more of a challenge with the pimp. The commissario expected this, knowing the man's occupation and the likelihood that this was not the first time the man had been in a police station. Upon meeting the pimp, Brunetti's observations and instincts prove to be right. Brunetti assesses the pimp as such: "One glance was enough to tell Brunetti all he needed to know about Franco: Franco was a tough guy, Franco ate nails, Franco wasn't afraid of cops."

The interview with the pimp does not go well at first. The pimp all but laughs in Brunetti's face saying that his lawyer will get him released and back out on the streets in a matter of hours. Brunetti thinks fast and switches gears. The detective tells Franco that the arrest is part of a larger operation and that Brunetti is only doing the interview because he knows Franco isn't responsible for the murders of three men and probably has nothing to do with the terrorist activity taking place at Pinetta's bar. This gets Franco's attention. Brunetti goes on to say that the anti-terrorism laws states that possible





suspects can be held for 48 hours before being allowed to contact anyone on the outside. Brunetti reinforces this mandate, knowing that Franco is a heroin addict who will be in serious withdrawal shortly. Franco suddenly decides to cooperate and gives Brunetti as much information as he knows, including the type of car his contact drives. The pimp doesn't know the woman who is sent to pick up the cash from the operation; he only receives instructions by phone. After making Franco sweat for another hour and a half, the police release the pimp.

Brunetti is convinced that Franca Trevisan is lying about being oblivious to her late husband's affairs. Even if the widow is not involved, Brunetti feels it is nearly impossible to be married to someone for twenty years without gaining some insight. The commissario arranges another meeting with Franca Trevisan and Salvatore Martucci, allowing the pair to choose the place for the interview. Brunetti goes to the Trevisan home for a second interview. The detective is not as polite this time and works hard to provoke one or both of the suspects. At first it seems that Martucci will be the one to lose his temper, but Brunetti begins to see slight cracks in Franca's armor. Just as Franca is about to confess to her husband's involvement in the prostitution ring, Martucci intervenes and the meeting is over. Brunetti plans to return.

After the meeting with Trevisan and Martucci, Brunetti returns to the Questura. Paola calls Brunetti and tells him that Chiara is hysterical and he must come home right away. Brunetti takes off and makes it home in record time to find that Chiara has calmed down some but is still extremely upset. Paola is furious and blames the incident on Brunetti's encouragement of Chiara's spy activities. Brunetti still has no idea what is wrong with Chiara. No one explains. Paola merely tells Brunetti to watch a videotape given to Chiara by Francesca Trevisan. Paola goes to comfort Chiara while Brunetti watches the tape. It is a horrific snuff film in which a woman is gang raped and then murdered. Brunetti is ill with disgust and anger, in part due to the film, in part due to his involvement in subjecting Chiara to such an awful thing. Brunetti talks to Chiara about the tape. The girl has calmed down some and asks Brunetti if the film is real. Brunetti says that it is and cannot explain why people do such horrible things. The only thing Brunetti can think to tell Chiara is that the film was not from Venice or Italy. Although there's no way to tell where it came from, Brunetti suspects by the language it came from Bosnia.

The links between the three murder victims and the international prostitution ring become stronger through the mysterious phone numbers. Brunetti also knows that the men must have been involved in the snuff films as well and decides to confront Signoras Trevisan and Ceroni once again.

Brunetti is more furious than ever with Franca Trevisan. Because of the Trevisans' involvement with the films, Chiara is traumatized. Angered by Franca's lies, Brunetti confronts her at the Trevisan home. Before Franca can start to lie again, Brunetti hits her with all he has learned about the prostitutes and the snuff films. Franca admits to knowing about all the activities though she never actively took part. Brunetti finds it odd that a mother would not be upset by the fact that her teenage daughter had seen a snuff film taken from her father's office.





Brunetti confronts Signora Ceroni again. Brunetti's demeanor shows that he means business. The woman admits to knowing about the tapes but little else.

## Chapters 21-26 Analysis

Brunetti learns nothing from Trevisan's client list but the phone numbers in his notebook prove to solidify the link between the men and international clients.

Signora Ceroni is a smart woman and although she is very cool, Brunetti knows there is more to the story than her three-year affair with Favero. Brunetti tries to trip her up, but the woman stays cool.

The interviews with the prostitute and the pimp offer some insight into the prostitution ring, although Brunetti had no concept of how large it is or the type of people who might be involved. Some estimated that there were 100 prostitutes per week, each charging fifty-thousand lire. Brunetti felt bad for the girl but could do nothing for her. The pimp, Franco, is hard as nails and not even remotely intimidated by Brunetti. Brunetti has two aces up his sleeve. First, Brunetti knows that Franco is a heroin addict and has already spent ten hours in custody. The man will soon begin a violent withdrawal. Brunetti invents a story about the phone at the bar being used for activities that violate the anti-terrorism laws, and although he knows Franco isn't involved, it will be at least 48 hours before the man can be released. Franco tells all he knows.

Brunetti senses that Franca Trevisan is about to make some sort of confession but it is blocked by Martucci, who has clearly stepped into the dominant role. Martucci successfully avoids financial questions, which keeps Brunetti suspicious.

Paola is horrified by the snuff film brought home by Chiara and furious at Brunetti for encouraging the girl to snoop. Francesca had offered Chiara the film as a response to why she might be kidnapped. Chiara becomes hysterical and wants to believe it isn't real. Brunetti is sickened by the film and is filled with anguish and regret that Chiara had been subjected to the movie.

Franca knows before she can say a word that Brunetti is furious. Upon learning about Chiara and the film, the widow seems slightly sorry but isn't repentant for her husband's and brother's roles in the ring.



# Chapters 27-28

## Chapters 27-28 Summary

Brunetti goes to Signora Ceroni's house to confront her about her involvement in a prostitution ring and other illegal activities involving the murdered men. The vague description of the woman given to Brunetti by the pimp only confirms what the detective already knew. In an attempt to get her to break, Brunetti goes to Signora Ceroni's house and confronts her with the information. Although Ceroni had denied owning a car, the comment wasn't enough to deter Brunetti.

Brunetti knows that Signora Ceroni is still holding back information regarding the prostitution ring, the tapes, and the money. While the commissario doesn't know how deeply the woman is involved, it is obvious that she has the knowledge and power to be able to carry off such a scheme. During their informal interview, the woman is completely cool, but there is something in her that ignites Brunetti's curiosity.

After the interview, Brunetti leaves. He watches Ceroni's house, knowing that it will only be a matter of time before the woman goes out. Nearly two hours after their meeting, Ceroni leaves the house. Brunetti follows her down the street to a parking garage. The attendant reluctantly tells Brunetti that the Signora drives a white Mercedes, the exact color and make of the car described by the pimp during the police interview. Brunetti waits for her to drive out and stands in front of the car, knowing she will stop. Ceroni stops mere inches from Brunetti. While the attendant is in shock, Brunetti gets into the Mercedes and Ceroni drives away.

Signora Ceroni tells Brunetti that she knew the police had uncovered the link among the three men. Brunetti confesses that it was the existence of the matching phone numbers that created the first real link. The fact that Ceroni had been with Favero the night of the murder pointed the investigation in her direction.

Over the next several hours, Ceroni drives around the city, and because it is evident that she will not escape the police, Ceroni answers all of Brunetti's questions. The woman says she knows about the snuff films, international prostitution ring and drug cartel, save for a few names. Ceroni outlines the various plans and tells what she knows. Although Ceroni isn't directly involved with the drug cartel, she is privy to a lot of the information through the other schemes. Brunetti, as jaded as he is, is shocked at the depth and breadth of the organization.

Eventually, Ceroni confesses to the murders of all three men. In Ceroni's eyes, the men were filthy and disgusting and deserved to die. Ceroni has no regrets about the murders and tells Brunetti that she had planned on going after more of the men involved. Ceroni has no illusions of self righteousness.



Ceroni explains how she became involved with the men. Much like the other prostitutes that had been hoodwinked and lured to Italy, Ceroni fell in love with a man who promised her the world. Upon arriving in Italy, Ceroni's passport was taken, and she learned quickly about the scam to transport immigrants and turn them out onto the streets until they worked off what was owed to their benefactors. Ceroni was smarter than many of the other women and learned how to fend for herself. Because the Signora was able to create a life for herself, Ceroni has no pity for the whores.

Ceroni's travel agency was set up as a front for the cartel. A large number of travel arrangements were needed on an ongoing basis, and a travel agency was the perfect cover. Ceroni continued to make herself a valuable asset to the organization. Eventually, she took it one step further and created a legitimate business to protect her interests. After a few years, the men who worked with Ceroni decided to sell out. The business was sold to Trevisan and his associates and they began to work together. Ceroni learned of the snuff films by accident and saw an opportunity to get involved in another part of the cartel. When the topic of the films came up, Ceroni said she might be able to help with distribution to make real money, but that she had to see the films first. The three men and Ceroni go to Lotto's apartment and watch the films. The genre wasn't clear to Ceroni, who was somewhat shocked to learn that the women were being gang raped and murdered. Ceroni is a hard woman but is disgusted by the men and how much they enjoyed the films. That's when she decided to kill them. In a strange way, Brunetti understands Ceroni and perhaps even respects the resourcefulness behind the business while being repelled by her actions.

The night grows late and Ceroni agrees to go to the Questura and make a confession. Because it is late, Brunetti takes her in, places her in a cell, and promises to be back in the morning. Ceroni's confession will take place in the morning. The Signora assures Brunetti that she is not the type of woman to do anything as foolish as commit suicide during the night, that she is not afraid to face the consequences for her actions.

To make sure that Ceroni is safe, Brunetti orders the lieutenant on duty to keep Ceroni secure and to prevent anyone from getting near the cell. The next day when Brunetti goes into the office, he learns that Special Branch has taken Ceroni to Padua. The officers had informed another lieutenant that Ceroni was being held on the death of Favero, and therefore, she must be taken and incarcerated in Padua. When Brunetti hears this, he knows immediately that something is wrong as the action was not police procedure. Brunetti contacts dell Corte who agrees that something is not right. The men learn that Ceroni has allegedly hanged herself in her cell. It is clear to both men that Ceroni has been murdered.

Later, Brunetti is called into the Vice Questore's office. Patta is angry about Ceroni. It seems that Patta's only concern is that Brunetti failed to get a confession immediately after bringing Ceroni in and because of that, Padua will get the collar.



## Chapters 27-28 Analysis

Brunetti begins to feel old and nearly helpless against the rampant corruption throughout the country. Although he and Paola discuss it frequently, Brunetti is seeing it again, and it's not an easy thing to look at from the standpoint of a commissario.

Ceroni's confession is somewhat surprising to Brunetti. The woman has no regrets about the murders; in fact, she feels as if a great wrong has been eradicated from the face of the earth. Ceroni knows she will not survive, regardless of the commissario's efforts. Ceroni jokes with Brunetti that she's not the type to commit suicide and perhaps she should have left the country when given the chance. All the loose ends are tied up in Ceroni's confession and knowledge of the prostitution ring, films, and pharmaceutical corruption. Even Brunetti is shocked, an amazing thing for such a seasoned cop.

Brunetti realizes that he's made a grave error by leaving Ceroni in the jail, even though he'd left strict instructions not to let anyone near her. It's obvious that the woman's transfer and death were planned by someone with enough authority to have the Special Branch become involved, most likely without their knowledge.

Brunetti also realizes that without Ceroni, the only thing left is the phone numbers and for all intents and purposes, the case is closed.



# Characters

## Guido Brunetti

Guido Brunetti is the commissario of the Venice police. Brunetti has been on the job for a number of years and is somewhat jaded by the politics involved in the work. These politics involve mutual dislike between Brunetti and his boss, Vice Questore Patta. It is clear Patta does not respect Brunetti nor approve of his methods but Brunetti's service record is a valid testament to his honor.

Brunetti is married to Professoressa Paola Falier and together, they have two children, ages 14 and 17. Brunetti is completely devoted to Paola and his children, which can be seen in his behavior and open attentiveness. Brunetti has a special bond with daughter Chiara. Paola says that if Brunetti was a coin, Chiara would be the other side. Together with Paola, Guido provides well for his family.

Brunetti has little time for incompetence and going through channels that may slow or stop an investigation; therefore, the man does not object to outside help when it is necessary.

Despite all the years on the police force, Brunetti still carries some naivete about the world. While Brunetti is not traditionally naïve, the information about the international cartel of prostitutes and drugs shocks even him. While Brunetti believes in the law, he is no above making misjudgments and mistakes. Overall, his ethics and instincts are sound, which make him the excellent detective known throughout Venice.

## Professoressa Paola Falier

Professoressa Paola Falier is an assistant professor of English literature at the University of Ca Pesaro in Venice. Falier is also the wife of Venetian police commissario Guido Brunetti, and mother of their two children, ages 14 and 17. Paola is a good, caring mother who is sure to teach the children about the world, sometimes to Guido's chagrin. Paola is a loyal woman who believes in right and wrong, whether or not certain things could be considered as criminal. Paola has high standards and wants to make sure her children do as well.

Throughout the book, Paola is preparing for a lecture on the British novel, an opportunity to show her knowledge to colleagues and other academics. At the end, the topic has changed but this shows Paola's ability to think on her feet and adapt.

There is a paradox in Paola about her children's lessons. While it is important for the children to know about politics, government and corruption, Paola also manages to protect the children to a degree, not wanting their knowledge to ruin their innocence.

All in all, Paola is an equal partner to Guido and the pair present a strong family front.



## **Avvocato Carlo Trevisan**

Avvocato Carlo Trevisan is an Italian lawyer who is an expert in the field of international law. Trevisan is industrious, ambitious, and prosperous. Trevisan is linked with the Palermo mafia and becomes a principal player in an international prostitution and pornographic film cartel.

## **Regina Ceroni**

Regina Ceroni is a travel agent who worked her way up through ranks of prostitutes to become a front for Trevisan's business. Ceroni is the murderer.

## **Rino Favero**

Rino Favero is a wealthy accountant and partners with Trevisan and Lotto in the prostitution ring.

## **Ubaldo Lotto**

Ubaldo Lotto is the brother-in-law of Carlo Trevisan and member of the international cartel.

## **Franca Trevisan**

Franca Trevisan is the widow of Carlo, lover to Salvatore Martucci, and accomplice to the cartel's activities.

## **Chiara Brunetti**

Chiara Brunetti is the 14-year-old daughter of Guido and Paola.

## **Capitano della Corte**

Capitano della Corte is with the Padua police, working with Brunetti on the triple homicide.

## **Giorgio Rondini**

Giorgio Rondini is a friend of Elettra's and the man who consistently supplies illegally-obtained information to aid Brunetti's investigations.



## **Salvadore Martucci**

Salvadore Martucci is Carlo Trevisan's partner and lover to Franca Trevisan.

## **Dr. Elettra Zorzi**

Dr. Elettra Zorzi is a psychiatrist who works as a consultant for the police.

## **Sergeant Vianello**

Sergeant Vianello is Brunetti's subordinate and acting partner.



# Objects/Places

## Venice

Venice is a city in northern Italy known for its scenic beauty and the gondolas that glide around the islands in the vicinity. Venice is an island, famous for its history as a maritime republic, as well as its art and craftsmanship. The city is also the center of the region of Veneto.

The people of Venice are well dressed and thoroughly Italian. There are still siestas in the afternoon when businesspeople and shopkeepers go home to have lunch with their families along with fine wine. In *Death and Judgment*, Guido Brunetti is a Venice citizen through and through. The commissario doesn't understand why anyone would want to live on the mainland in municipalities like Mestre, where there is an incredible amount of traffic and attitudes far removed from that of his beloved city. Even when Brunetti is involved in a case, the man takes time to stop in Piazza San Marco to admire the architecture of the buildings including the Basilica, although many have been under construction since he was a boy. Brunetti even stops to watch the pigeons that notoriously plague the piazza; they are hoping for a bit of bread and attention from the tourists who seem amused by the flocks of birds.

Brunetti doesn't seem to mind commuting to the mainland via ferry or taking the train to places such as Padua or Mestre, as long as he can go home at the end of the day.

## Italy

Italy is a European country that has many distinct regions and personalities. Many associate Italy with the Vatican and Rome, as well as with history, art, and architecture. The coast lines, particularly those on the Mediterranean Sea, have drawn immigrants and tourists for centuries. In northern Italy, the population tends to be fair haired and have lighter eyes and fairer complexions than those in the south. The north has the Italian Alps, which lend a different feel to the countryside than the more tropical south. The people in the south tend to have darker hair, eyes, and skin and are well known for what the rest of the world considers to be "traditional" Italian food. Many think of Sicily when they think of the south, from the boot-shaped land to the heritage of those in the Sicilian mafia.

There are famous sea ports throughout the country, alluding to Italy's long maritime history and the events that shaped its existence.

In *Death and Judgment*, Brunetti and Paola are disheartened by the political climate in their beloved country, fearing that there is no hope of warding off the ever increasing corruption in the government, a corruption that is widespread.





## **Padua**

Padua is one of the two main locales in the story, site of Favero's murder and jurisdiction for Capitano della Corte.

## **Brunetti Home**

The Brunetti Home is a modest place located not far from the center of Venice.

## **Questura**

The Questura is the police station where Brunetti works.

## **Trieste**

Trieste is a popular spot to board a ferry for Venice.

## **Taravasio**

Taravasio is located in the northern part of Italy, in the mountains near the border of Austria.

## **Intercity for Trieste train**

The Intercity for Trieste train was the location of the first murder.

## **Mestre**

Mestre is a small town located outside Venice and Padua.

## **Brazil**

Brazil is one of the many locations from which girls are lured to Italy and then turned into prostitutes.

## **Pinetta's**

Pinetta's is a seedy bar located in Mestre and is also the site of the phone calls linking the murder victims.

## **Piazza San Marco**

Piazza San Marco is also known as St. Mark's Square and is one of the prominent attractions in the center of Venice.



# Themes

## Police work

Guido Brunetti has spent many years as a police officer in Venice. Through hard work, Brunetti has reached the rank of commissario, which is equal to a superintendent in other countries. Brunetti does not abuse his power, although he is not afraid to use it to get results, whether or not the action is appreciated, which it is rarely. Brunetti's biggest obstacle in the Questura is his immediate supervisor, Vice-Questore Patta, an arrogant man who cares about nothing more than promoting his own image and making the Questura look good to higher level officials. This behavior angers Brunetti who has respect for justice and doesn't care at all about politics. In fact, Brunetti hates politics.

In the department, Brunetti has the assistance of Sergeant Vianello, a companion and partner of sorts. Another person who provides invaluable assistance to Brunetti is psychiatrist and police consultant Elettra Zorzi. Brunetti cannot understand why a smart, beautiful and talented woman such as Zorzi would want to work for the police, but he does know he would be lost without her.

Despite all the things Brunetti goes through, the job is the thing most important to him next to his wife and children.

## Family

The Brunetti family consists of Guido Brunetti, wife Paola Falier, and their two children. The oldest child, 17, is away at school throughout the book, but Chiara, the daughter plays a significant role in the story. Also included in the family is Bark, a spotted beagle.

Chiara is very smart and savvy for a 14-year-old girl. Although Chiara has great pride in her father, the girl does not hesitate to balk against his command. There is also evidence that Chiara is still very much the little girl who needs her parents.

Paola is a strong, liberal-minded woman. As an assistant professor of English literature at a nearby university, Paola knows the importance of a good education and imparts this to the children. At times it backfires but overall, Paola's methods are sound and effective.

Brunetti is an excellent father who wholeheartedly loves his children. He often dotes on Chiara and can be her playmate as well as an authority figure. Paola seems slightly jealous that Chiara probably prefers the company of her father. Referring to Chiara, Paola said that if Brunetti was a coin, Chiara would be the other side.

As liberal as Brunetti and Paola are, there is a strong current of respect and authority with the children as well as temperance toward each other. The family has a solid relationship and could easily be the model of a modern family.



## Corruption

Corruption is at the heart of Death and Judgment. It is already well known that there is much corruption throughout the country and beyond, as Brunetti and fellow police have been working on several cases involving fraud, embezzlement, and a large operation that involves price fixing and other illegal activities in the pharmaceutical industries. However widespread it seems, Brunetti is somewhat surprised to find that corruption has come to roost in Venice and the region of Veneto. As the case progresses, it is obvious to Brunetti and those working with him that they are up against powerful people who can and will make things go their way.

Brunetti doesn't know what to think when he reads the list of Trevisan's clients. Many are notorious criminals, while others are thought to be beyond reproach. Advice from a chief justice helps Brunetti sort out some of the mysteries.

With corruption comes conspiracy, and when Brunetti learns how far and wide the prostitution ring is spread, even the seasoned policeman is surprised. Brunetti learns much about the operation from the prostitute at Pinetta's and slightly more from the pimp, although pieces still must fall in place before the whole picture is evident.

When Signora Ceroni confesses and explains everything to Brunetti, he realizes there is no way he is able to stop the corruption, and he must proceed and do the best he knows how.



# Style

## Point of View

The point of view in Donna Leon's *Death and Judgment* is third person omniscient. While the story concerns the activities of Guido Brunetti, the author made the smart choice to avoid using the first person. The story itself is rather complex and only third person omniscient would allow the reader to follow and understand the activities of all the characters and also allow for the actions and thoughts of other characters in the book as well as those events of which Brunetti has no knowledge.

Leon still manages to let the reader see inside Brunetti's head. Readers are granted insight into Brunetti's thoughts on the case, from the frustration of gathering elusive evidence to the victory of Signora Ceroni's confession. The reader is also permitted to see Venice through Brunetti's eyes, the appreciation of the city where he grew up and remains.

Paola's views are also telling in the way she relates to Brunetti and Chiara. It is clear that she is a devoted professional, wife, and mother. The viewpoint of husband and wife give a rounded view of the family.

All in all, the choice of third person omniscient is crucial to the story and the way it is played out.

## Setting

*Death and Judgment* is set in northern Italy. Most of the story takes place in Venice, known as Venezia, to the locals. The landscape plays a large part in the book, as traveling to and from the islands takes time, although it never seems to hinder Brunetti or the investigation. Although Brunetti was raised in Venice, he remains enamored with it and cannot imagine living anywhere else. Brunetti has disdain for the cities on the mainland, mostly due to the crowds and traffic. This is a major factor considering most people in Venice travel on foot or by water.

Venice is filled with history, art, and the love of relaxation. St. Mark's Square is a favorite spot for Brunetti. On the square are located the famed Basilica, Doge's Palace, and the Bridge of Sighs.

There is a mention of Taravasio, a region in the Italian Alps where the truck derailed. The countryside is beautiful but difficult to get to in bad weather. The two other main locations featured in the book are Padua and Mestre. Padua is the home of Capitano della Corte and a place Brunetti must visit to work on the Favero case. The other place is Mestre, a place both Brunetti and della Corte dislike for its open disdain for the law, addicts and prostitutes, and seedy bars such as Pinetta's. At the end of Brunetti's travels, he is always glad to get back to Venice.



## Language and Meaning

Because Venice is an integrated city that is visited by many tourists, a large number of people in the book speak English, albeit only when necessary. As with most regions, Veneto has its own dialect and accents. This is only evident when pointed out by the author, since Italian is used sparingly throughout the work. There is also the presence of people from other countries such as Brazil, Spain, and Bosnia, as well as those from adjacent countries such as Austria and Luxembourg.

It is likely the author lived in Venice for some time by the way she uses familiar words and phrases unknown to those versed only in proper Italian. To maintain authenticity, Leon uses Italian phrases for certain items and places, such as the Questura. Although it is never explained, the reader can easily deduce that the Questura is the police department. The same can be said for the titles of several of the characters, from the Commissario to the Vice-Questore to Professoressa, and Dottore, as well as how they are used to show respect.

The Italian language is beautiful and since it is a romance language that is Latin based, it is often easy to understand for those who do not speak the language. It is fortunate, however, that the author inserted some of the language, not only for authenticity but for flavor and beauty.

## Structure

The structure of *Death and Judgment* is fairly straightforward. There are 289 pages separated into 28 chapters. The shortest chapter is 3 pages; the longest chapter is 21 pages. The average chapter length is 9 pages.

A major portion of the book takes place in Venice, the region of Veneto, in northern Italy. The work stays focused, not jumping around from place to place except when necessary. Even then, it is clear that the reader is being taken from Venice to other parts of the country, which may be completely different in many ways, from language to mannerisms to ethics and beliefs.

The structure of Venice itself is intriguing and the author touches on the subject, commenting on the famed islands and the manner of transportation that must be employed around the city and to get to other locales. Many of the people travel by train, ferry or gondola, although people on the mainland seem to prefer cars.

The tone throughout the book is consistent, a sense of urgency and curiosity tainted by cynicism and years of working on the job.



## Quotes

"Carlo Trevisan, Avvocato Carlo Trevisan, to give him the title he preferred to hear used when people spoke of him, was a man of very ordinary past, which in no way impinged upon the fact that he was a man of limitless future."

Pg. 9

"He turned away from the newsstand and continued walking toward the Questura, calling to mind the various cases upon which they were working at the moment, trying to calculate who would be given this one."

Pg. 20

"Vianello had the knack of getting people to talk, especially if they were Venetians."

Pg. 35

"The pigeons, usually stupid and hateful, appeared almost charming to him, as they bobbed up and down at the feet of their many admirers."

Pg. 40

"She set her book face down on the bed. 'Mamma says that's capitalistic blackmail, and that I don't have to listen to you when you do it.'"

Pg. 53

"Each motion brought on new peals of gleeful fear and left Paola wishing she had sufficient authority to send a commissario of police to his room without lunch."

Pg. 57

"Brunetti he knew this mood and almost feared it, this recurring certainty of the futility of everything he did."

Pg. 73

"'All the old rules have been broken,' he continued. 'For 50 years, since the end of the war, all we've ever been is lied to. By the government, the church, the political parties, by industry and business and the military.'"

Pg. 103

"Brunetti tried to look shamefaced, a man not at home with language, who expressed himself, yet once again, badly."

Pg. 113



"The owner of the bar, apparently, had seen too many American films, for it tried to resemble the sort of place where Victor Mature had thrown his weight around."

Pg. 126

"Brunetti regretted having forgotten to leave the gun in his office; it had been open season on judges in Italy for so long that everyone was nervous and, too late, very cautious."

Pg. 144

"One glance was enough to tell Brunetti all he needed to know about Franco: Franco was a tough guy, Franco ate nails, Franco wasn't afraid of cops."

Pg. 195

"He could allow himself righteous indignation about men who used teenagers as whores, yet he had felt no equal repugnance at turning his own child into a spy. Until now."

Pg. 240

"Brunetti's hand was slippery with sweat. He switched the phone to his other hand and wiped his palm on the leg of his trousers. 'What happened?'"

Pg. 286



## Topics for Discussion

How might Brunetti have acted if Patta had given the Trevisan case to someone else?

Do you agree with Paola about Chiara's spy activities? Explain

Do you think Topa's fight at the bar hurt Brunetti's investigation? Explain.

Why would the police simply ignore the disappearance of Favero's toxicology and autopsy reports?

Why do you think someone of Elettra's education decides to work for the Questura?

How do you think Patta would react if he knew about Brunetti's investigative methods? Or do you think he is aware of Brunetti's methods and thus is the reason he dislikes Brunetti? Explain either stand.

Do you think Signora Ceroni hanged herself or was murdered? Explain.

How might Lt. Scarpa have been involved in Signora Ceroni's death?