

“AFTER THE DIVORCE” BY GRAZIA DELEDDA

Discussion questions

1. Grazia Deledda was nominated for a Nobel Prize for Literature 13 times and finally awarded the prize in 1926/7 "for her idealistically inspired writings which with plastic clarity picture the life on her native island and with depth and sympathy deal with human problems in general." Was that writing displayed in this novel?
2. Like most of Deledda's work (including novels, short stories, poetry and essays) "After the Divorce" is set very firmly in Sardinia, so much so she has been referred to as the "voice of Sardinia." She was born in Sardinia a year after Italian unification and received little formal education. She wrote in Italian rather than her first language, a Sardinian dialect known as sardo logudorese. Why do you think she did so?
3. Did the novel seem uniquely Italian? Did it have to take place in Italy with Italian characters to work? Why or why not?
4. Did you read "Ties" along with "After the Divorce?" Why was that suggested? Do you see similarities between the books despite being published more than a century apart? Are any similarities you noticed only due to both being written by Italian authors?
5. D.H. Lawrence wrote, in an introduction to another Deledda novel, "The Mother," "She does more than reproduce the temporary psychological condition of her period." Do you agree?

