

“TIES” DOMENICO STARNONE

Discussion questions

1. Was the novel being written in three parts with the story told from three different points of view effective?
2. Did the novel seem uniquely Italian? Did it have to take place in Italy with Italian characters to work? Why or why not?
3. The original title of the novel, in Italian, is “Lacci,” which translates to “Laces.” Does “Laces” and “Ties” connote the same things? Does one title suit the work better than the other? How do each of the titles relate to the work?
4. A review in *Library Journal* described the novel as “A scalding and incisive display of damage done.” Do you agree or disagree with that statement?
5. 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?
6. The novel has been called “understated” and “emotionally powerful” by a New York Times review. Did you find that to be true? If so, how did those seemingly disparate states coexist in the novel?
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