

The Ghost of Blackwood Lane

by Greg Enslin

Discussion Questions

1. Gary is wracked with dreams of a woman he cannot remember. Do you think dreams can convey actual messages or are they simply our mind's way of assimilating the day's information?
2. Gary reaches out to elements of contemporary mysticism, such as psychics and tarot readings, in an attempt to make sense of his life. Do you think these fringe "sciences" can offer insights into a normal life?
3. Much of *The Ghost of Blackwood Lane* is set in the Midwest near St. Louis. Does it feel realistic?
4. Judy is trapped in a horrible situation. Is it portrayed accurately? Would anyone survive such treatment? Why would they stay in the relationship?
5. What made Vincent the way he is? Could he ever change?
6. What important role does Mike play in the story? Is Mike a good friend to Gary or not? Does his presence in the book help bring about the conclusion?
7. What might Judy's paintings symbolize?
8. What do Americans think about crime families and the Mafia? Has their impression of criminal organizations changed since the Godfather movies and the HBO series "*The Sopranos*"?
9. Between Vincent and his brother, who is more likely to lead the business to success? Is Vincent right that a Mafia-style family must be inherently violent?
10. Is there a maximum amount of territory one crime family could successfully manage or would they always be butting up against rivals like the East Dogs?
11. Does Gary's friend Mike change his mind about the Midwest by the end of the book?
12. Judy kept the engagement ring the whole time she was married to Vincent. Why?
13. Why did Vincent kill his brother?
14. What should Gary have done with the duffel bag?
15. What do you think happens to Judy at the end, after she leaves? Does she find closure with what happened to her parents?
16. By the end of the book, does Gary remember everything? What would happen if he had heard the trigger words?