

Possession book club guide

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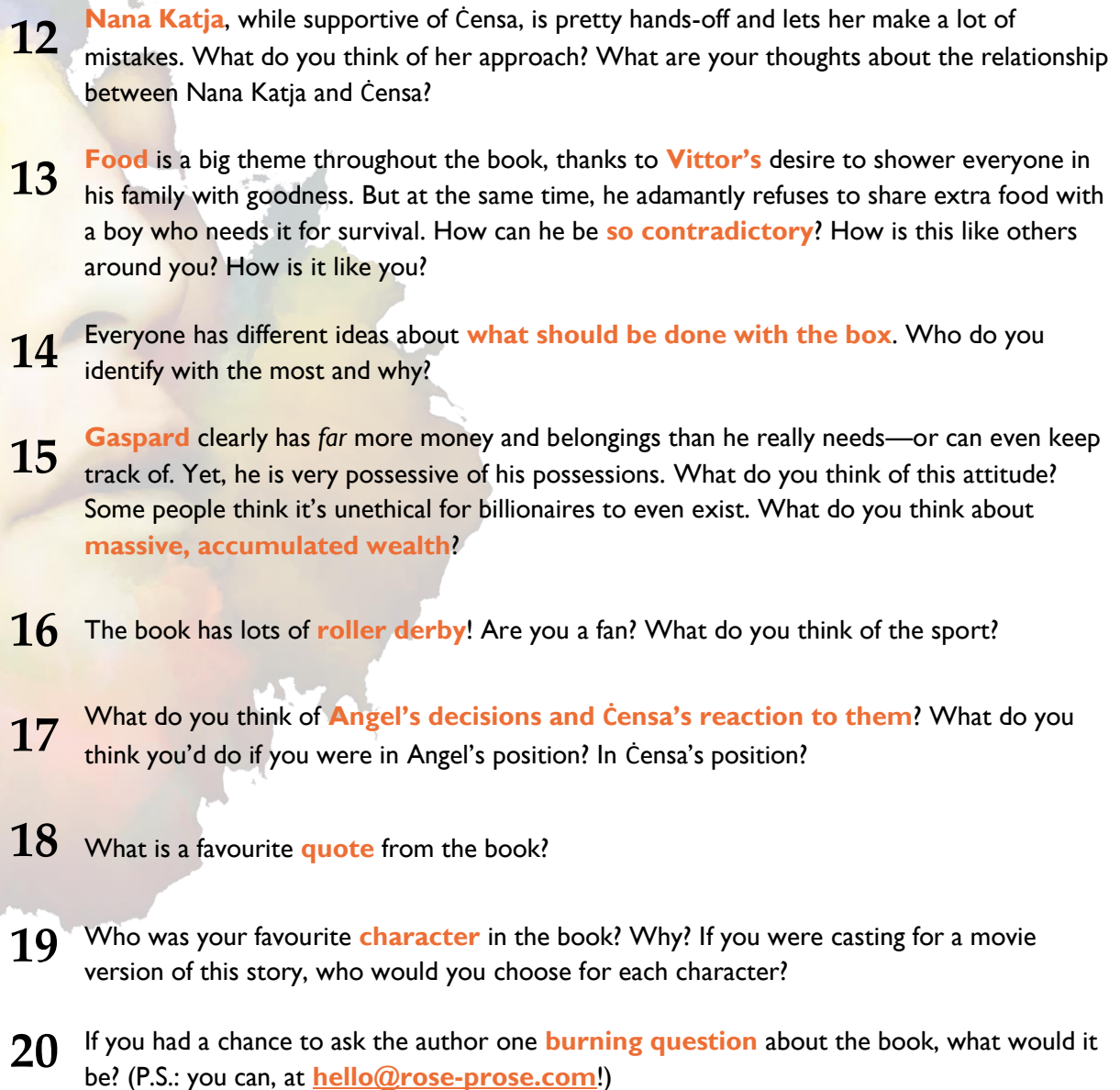
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Possession: a book club guide

Let's start a conversation—with each other and with *Possession*, itself! Every book comes alive in different ways for different people. What do you and *Possession* have to say?

All the questions in this guide are meant as starters—to get the conversation going. Choose the ones you like and then you and your club will take it from there.

- 1 What are the **themes** that jump out at you? For you, what's the main, overarching one? What are some of the minor ones that you think are important and why?
- 2 Nearly all the characters in the book want to **possess** or control something, whether it's a physical object, something more abstract—or even others' behaviours. What are some of the **harms** this causes?
- 3 What are the **pros and cons of ownership** that you see represented in the story?
- 4 There's a lot of **hypocrisy** in some of the characters. Do you think this is linked to their issues with **ownership**? Why or why not?
- 5 **Ĉensa** has a view of herself as a person who is **unattached to belongings and money**. Do you agree with her? What clues do you see to her deeper personality and issues?
- 6 Is being stubbornly **unattached to possessions** better than being in thrall to them? What's your **philosophy** on this?
- 7 What role does the setting, in **Malta**, play in the story—in particular, in illustrating issues to ponder around **possessions and ownership**?
- 8 How would you describe **Despina's attitude** towards possessions? Do you know people like this? What do you think of this approach?
- 9 What do you think of **Ĉensa's use of the mysterious drug** in her art process? Assuming you knew it was safe to use and non-addictive, would you do the same? Why or why not?
- 10 What do you think of **Gigi's attitude towards Gaspard's medallion**? As she pointed out to Ĉensa, losing it would certainly do him no financial harm and he didn't even notice for a while that it was gone. What are your thoughts?
- 11 In the book, we learn of **stiff penalties** for people mistreating cultural objects. The frightening text Ĉensa reads is taken directly from **Malta's Cultural Heritage Act of 2002**. How do these rules compare to the laws in your country? What do you think of them?

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- 12 **Nana Katja**, while supportive of Ćensa, is pretty hands-off and lets her make a lot of mistakes. What do you think of her approach? What are your thoughts about the relationship between Nana Katja and Ćensa?
 - 13 **Food** is a big theme throughout the book, thanks to **Vittor's** desire to shower everyone in his family with goodness. But at the same time, he adamantly refuses to share extra food with a boy who needs it for survival. How can he be **so contradictory**? How is this like others around you? How is it like you?
 - 14 Everyone has different ideas about **what should be done with the box**. Who do you identify with the most and why?
 - 15 **Gaspard** clearly has *far* more money and belongings than he really needs—or can even keep track of. Yet, he is very possessive of his possessions. What do you think of this attitude? Some people think it's unethical for billionaires to even exist. What do you think about **massive, accumulated wealth**?
 - 16 The book has lots of **roller derby**! Are you a fan? What do you think of the sport?
 - 17 What do you think of **Angel's decisions and Ćensa's reaction to them**? What do you think you'd do if you were in Angel's position? In Ćensa's position?
 - 18 What is a favourite **quote** from the book?
 - 19 Who was your favourite **character** in the book? Why? If you were casting for a movie version of this story, who would you choose for each character?
 - 20 If you had a chance to ask the author one **burning question** about the book, what would it be? (P.S.: you can, at hello@rose-prose.com!)