



# NONNA MARIA

and the Case of

## THE LOST TREASURE

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss Nonna Maria as a character. What traits make her a compelling and unconventional amateur sleuth?
2. How does the setting of Ischia contribute to the overall atmosphere and tone of the book? How does it enhance the story?
3. Nonna Maria is known for her love of cooking. How do food and the act of sharing meals play a role in the story? Discuss the symbolism behind food and its connection to family and community.
4. *Nonna Maria and the Case of the Lost Treasure* explores themes of family and the importance of heritage. How does Nonna Maria's Italian background influence her approach to solving crimes? In what ways does her cultural identity shape the story?
5. This novel also delves into themes of friendship, loyalty, and community. Discuss the friendships between Nonna Maria and her neighbors. How do these relationships aid her in her investigations? How does the sense of community contribute to the overall message of the story?
6. Discuss the character of Captain Murino, Nonna Maria's longtime pal and, sometimes, colleague. How does their relationship evolve throughout the book? How does their dynamic contribute to the story?
7. There is a second mystery at play involving a treasure hidden in Ischia's secret caverns. How does this subplot add to the overall narrative? Did you find it as engaging as the main mystery?
8. How does Nonna Maria's storytelling, particularly her tales of the island's history and legends, impact the overall narrative? Discuss the significance of passing down stories and preserving cultural heritage.
9. As always, Lorenzo Carcaterra's depiction of Ischia features a colorful cast of supporting characters. Discuss the importance of secondary characters like Rocco, Father Angelo, and Rosa in shaping the narrative and adding depth to the story.
10. The book introduces some sinister characters with their own motives for finding the treasure. Discuss the role of these antagonists in the narrative. How do they contribute to the overall conflict and suspense?
11. Nonna Maria is compared to Miss Marple and Sherlock Holmes. In what ways does she embody the characteristics of these iconic detectives? How does she use her wit and intelligence to solve the mysteries?
12. How did you feel about *Nonna Maria and the Case of the Lost Treasure* as the third book in the Nonna Maria series? Did it live up to your expectations and provide a satisfying continuation of Nonna Maria's adventures?