



THE LADY OF SORROWS
A Seven Deadly Sins Mystery
By Ann Zouroudi

Questions for Discussion

1. To what extent does the title of the book reflect the overall feel of the story?
2. THE LADY OF SORROWS opens with a passage from Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book IV. What connections do these lines have to the characters and themes in the book?
3. How much do we know about “the fat man”? What are his motivations? Do you think his mysteriousness makes him a stronger, more intriguing character?
4. Beyond Hermes Diaktoros (“the fat man”), are there any situations in which the author uses names to give us more information about her characters?
5. Knowing the vigorous orthodoxy on the island, do Father Linos’s rebellious ideas arouse suspicions surrounding his character?
6. Consider some of your first impressions of Father Linos, Sambeca, Agiris, and Hermes. How did your views of these characters change as the story progressed?
7. What do you consider to be the most emotional and poignant scene in the novel, and why?
8. What part does nature play in the novel? Consider the role of the sea and other environmental events in developing the plot—would you consider them to be like characters in their own right?
9. Does the author successfully portray a division between the faithful and old tradition, and the new, modern cynicism? What do you think the author was trying to achieve with the juxtaposition of old and new?
10. How important are the themes of premonition and foreboding in the novel, both for the individual characters and the plot as a whole?

11. Discuss the fat man's emphasis on the importance of choices—how central are they to the novel? In light of this, consider the decisions made by Sammy, Agiris, Nassia and Father Linos.
12. Knowing the fat man's character, how do you think he decides to deal with the dilemma that he leaves unanswered at the end of the novel?
13. Discuss the importance of love and family, which takes many forms throughout the book. What is the relation of love and family to secrecy and deception?
14. THE LADY OF SORROWS is part of the crime series called The Seven Deadly Sins Mysteries. How does Hermes Diaktoros compare to other fictional detectives in similar sets of books? Do you feel the Grecian setting has an influence on the characterization of Hermes Diaktoros?
15. Each book of The Seven Deadly Sins Mysteries tackles one of the seven deadly sins. THE LADY OF SORROWS deals with the sin of wrath. Discuss the role of wrath in the novel. What kinds of messages do you think the author wants readers to take from the story?