

**UNTO THE DAUGHTERS:
THE LEGACY OF AN HONOR KILLING
IN A SICILIAN-AMERICAN FAMILY**

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Discussion Questions

How and why are certain traits in parent passed down to their children (or not)?

What are some of the themes of the book?

How do you feel Frances's experiences in America led her to her elopement? Do you think she would have done the same thing had the family remained in Italy?"

Do you think the author chose to foreshadow Frances' death? If so, why? Why do you think the author segues to the scene where she (Karen) is drowning, then suddenly switches gears into a memory of a closet in her grandmother's house?

Would one of the Costa boys have been punished had **they** defied the family? Who would have meted out the punishment? Would it have been as harsh as Frances'?

What about the law? How does a person just vanish, unaccounted for?

Clearly, the Church was important in Italian-American society.

Did they just look the other way?

Immigrants assimilate, but not all have to deal with familial murder. How did Frances' murder affect her family's assimilation?

Do you think Frances anticipated her fate? Why? Why not?

How did the survivors handle the relaying of Frances' story and the incredible weight of emotions that were bundled with it?

Was the aftermath of Frances' murder any different because her family was in the US and not in Sicily?

In nearly every version the author heard about what happened to her great-aunt, Frances was at fault. Why would this occur in the 21st century?

Would Frances have met the same fate had the family remained in Sicily? Why? Why not?

What does Frances' story say about the value of women in the culture? What cultural values impacted its treatment of women?

How does Frances' story resonate today? What has changed? Why? What remains the same? Why?

Do you think Frances' story will have an impact on the present generation of her family today? Why? How?