

STELLA BARCELONA

Concierge Book Club Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe that Concierge could have been set in any city, at any time, or are there unique aspects of the New Orleans French Quarter and the Mardi Gras season that were essential to the story?
2. A) Have you been on Royal Street, Esplanade Avenue, and Frenchmen Street, where action takes place in Concierge? What did you do there? Do you have a favorite street in New Orleans? If so, which one and why?

B) What is your favorite street in your favorite city/town? Can you describe the street's personality? What do you like to do when you visit that street?
3. Andi suffered a great trauma in the earlier novel, Deceived, which affects her in Concierge. If you went through similar trauma, how do you think it might affect you? Is there someone in your life who could help you get through such an experience? Would you be able to share the details of what you'd gone through, or would you keep it to yourself, like Andi?
4. How did you feel when Gabe read Andi's journals? Did you feel it was appropriate for him to invade her privacy, even if he was able to help her based on the information he discovered? Can you envision circumstances where you would read someone's private journals?
5. Andi has a few places near her home where she feels safe. Describe an area near your home that you like going to when you need to get away. How frequently do you go there?
6. Were you able to visualize Andi's paintings and sketches based upon the author's descriptions? Who are some of your favorite painters? What do you like about their works?
7. What did you think of Andi's concern for and desire to sketch people she encountered on the streets? Does your city have a large population of people who are homeless? Is there anything you could do to help them?
8. What did you think of Pic? Did he have adequate motivation for running away from home? Do you believe his hesitation over moving into Andi's guesthouse was realistic? What did you think of Pic's initial reaction to Gabe?
9. Why do you think the author used the first person point of view for the villain's scenes?
10. What developments in the story surprised you?
11. Do you believe that human traffickers could operate where you live? Why, or why not? In your opinion, what circumstances could make a person vulnerable to human traffickers? If you were kidnapped, or taken, how long do you believe it would be before someone noticed you were missing and alerted the authorities?
12. What was your favorite scene? What did you like about it – setting, characterization, emotion, action, or something else?