

## Discussion Guide Without Provenance

When a Caravaggio painting found in Toulouse France sells for \$170 million why do John and Nancy doubt its authenticity?

The Petralias relate several stories about forgers and forged paintings. What stories do you recall? Were you surprised by some of the people named as forgers?

What is craquelure and why is it important in the book?

The color red is threaded throughout the book. Why do you think it is important?

Does the book give you a renewed appreciation for the concept of Provenance? Why?

While in Barcelona, Nancy finds some parallels between Caravaggio and Antoni Gaudi. What are they?

Who was Lancelot William Thwaytes? Why is he upset when a Caravaggio is insured for \$10 million.

If you could purchase an exact replica—including every brushstroke—of Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* for \$900 would you do it? Discuss.

Tom Brady has a dog that is a clone of his previous dog. If you could have your dog or cat cloned for \$900 would you do it? Discuss.

Should the British Museum return the Elgin Marbles to Greece? Discuss.

While in Florence, John & Nancy are intent on seeing an exhibition of a Manfredi painting. What obstacles do they encounter? How do they handle the situation?

In what manner did Caravaggio become a force in the Church's Counter Reformation?

What did you learn about Caravaggio's life? Does it influence your appreciation of his work?

If another Caravaggio painting is discovered in the next year, how will you react to claims of its authenticity?

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Do you think John and Nancy have created a Caravaggio forgery good enough to fool an expert? If so, what do expect will happen to it?