



Reading Guide:

***Jewels: A Secret History* by Victoria Finlay**

1. Was this a story about jewels—or people? What about the book makes you say that?
2. What role does trade play in this book? Does it surprise you how much trade existed in earlier times?
3. What did you think of the book's organization? Did you enjoy the author's approach?
4. Since Rienzi has a jet necklace on view, what was the most intriguing story involving jet in chapter 2?
5. The portrait of Margaret of Austria in Rienzi's gallery features the famous La Peregrina Pearl. What do you find most fascinating about its journey through time?
6. Has this book made you think differently about your jewelry box?
7. Was there a jewel Finlay omits that you wish she would have included?
8. If you could choose an object, like a particular jewel, to trace through time and geography, what would it be?

Author Biography

Victoria Finlay is a British writer and journalist. Her first book, *Color: Travels through the Paint Box*, was published in 2002 and took her on a journey to 17 countries. She was inspired to write *Jewels: A Secret History* two years later. Finlay studied social anthropology at St. Andrew's University, Scotland, and William and Mary, Virginia, after which she joined Reuters. From 1991 to 2003 Finlay worked in Hong Kong as a journalist. She lives in Bath, England, with her husband Martin Palmer and a grumpy cat named Basil.

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