

## Study of Poisons by Maria V. Snyder Book Club

1. What do you think of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person narration?
2. Did you read *Poison Study* before *Study of Poisons*, after or during?
3. How do you feel about the 1<sup>st</sup> scene being the death of a poison taster?
4. Why do you think poison tasters became corrupt or lazy or both?
5. What do you think of the first interaction between Yelena and Valek?
6. If you were in Yelena's position, would you become the poison taster? Why or why not?
7. What do you think of Butterfly Dust as a fake poison to keep the poison tasters under control with the need for a daily antidote?
8. Would you want to wear uniforms like the people of Ixia? Why or why not?
9. Who is your favorite character and why?
10. Who is your least favorite character and why?
11. Would you want to live in Ixia under the Commander or under the monarchy and why?
12. What do you think of the challenge to become Valek's second that he will make anyone who beats him in a fight his second in command?
13. How do you feel about Valek's messy office organization?
14. What do you think of Valek's attitude toward executions versus the Commander's attitude toward executions?
15. How does Yelena's training affect Valek?
16. What is your favorite relationship in the book and why?
17. How does the theme of trust affect the book?
18. Why do you think Valek falls in love with Yelena?
19. Do you think the poison tasters should get paid? Why or why not?
20. What do you think of Valek's plan to run the smugglers out of business by running better black market goods?
21. How does magic affect the story?
22. What do you think of the politics and double crosses in the book?
23. What does the Criollo sound like to you?
24. Which type of fighting sounds the most interesting to you and why?
25. How do you feel about Valek rejecting Yelena's advances when she was drunk?
26. What do you think of the development of Valek and Yelena's relationship?
27. Did you like the book?
28. Do you want to read more in the series?