



katherine scott jones

STORIES TO CELEBRATE BEAUTY

**Reading Group Questions for *Shadow Sister***

Author Heather Gilbert describes *Shadow Sister* as the story of two sisters: Jenna, who ran away from home to escape her past, and Sarah, who stayed home and forgot who she really was. Which sister do you most identify with?

On the surface, Jenna and Sarah couldn't be more different. In what ways are they similar?

What role does Tomaso play in the sisters' lives? How is it different for each of them?

Symbolism plays a big part in *Shadow Sister*. What is the significance of the carved mahogany box? Jenna's silver charm bracelet? The growing of grapes?

As an adult with a robust and personal faith in Jesus Christ, Sarah looks back on her childhood and calls Jesus the milquetoast God of her Sunday school upbringing. Can you relate to this view? How does Sarah's faith continue to grow throughout the course of the story?

What does Jenna mean when she says, "I met Jesus in Bolivia. Or He met me. Or both."

Why do you think Sarah develops such an immediate rapport with Sofia?

What do you think of the belief that a spirit lingers a while on earth before departing? Have you, or anyone you know, ever experienced something similar to what Sarah did after a loved-one's passing?

Tomaso says to Sarah, "Too often we see only what we expect to see and become blind to everything else." How do we see this theme played out throughout the book?

Jenna makes sense of the world through words, Sarah through art. How do you make sense of your world?

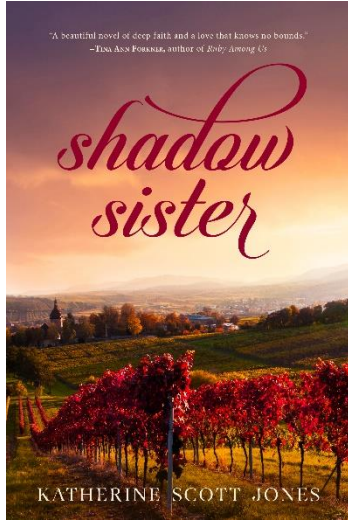
Do you think a foreign presence like La Fuente is right to go into places like Magdalena and try to do things differently? Why or why not?

At what point does Sarah realize she and Jenna have made peace with each other?

What is the truth that finally sets Sarah free?

What do you think the future holds for Sarah and Chase? For Sarah and Harrison? For Jonas? For Sofia?

Who is the shadow sister—Sarah or Jenna?



## *Shadow Sister*

Working on her father's vineyard allows Sarah Lanning to bury memories of a lost love and a career that might have been. But then her fractured family receives word that her estranged sister, Jenna, is dead, leaving behind an unexpected request: that Sarah travel to Bolivia to scatter her ashes.

Accompanied by pilot Chase Maddox, Sarah embarks on an Andean journey that tests her devotion to home and exposes Jenna's secret life. Each staggering discovery creates new mysteries—until the last, which leaves Sarah questioning everything she understood about family loyalty. At a crossroads, she must decide whether truth is worth the cost of forgiveness—and whether she can lay claim to a

future of happiness without it.

Bittersweet and bold, *Shadow Sister* explores the mysteries of the human heart and the bond of unquenchable love.

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**Author bio:** Katherine Scott Jones grew up in cities on every U.S. coast and overseas as her family moved with her father's Navy career. Seattle became home when she married her husband twenty-eight years ago. After graduating from Whitworth University with a degree in communications, she established herself as a freelance writer before turning her hand to fiction. She blogs about books that celebrate beauty amidst the brokenness at [www.katherinescottjones.com](http://www.katherinescottjones.com). Katherine and her husband have two teenage children.



**Kind words:**

“A beautiful novel of deep faith and a love that knows no bounds.” —**Tina Ann Forkner**, author of *Ruby Among Us*

“A story of old secrets and new beginnings, *Shadow Sister* explores the complexities of family, the bonds of sisterhood, and the crippling power of guilt. In Sarah, Katherine Scott Jones has created a woman struggling with her own demons but ultimately finding faith and discovering the beauty of forgiveness.” —**Lisa Wingate**, bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours*

“Katherine Scott Jones has an uncanny eye for dialogue and detail. *Shadow Sister* is a story that will resonate with readers for a long time to come.” —**Jolina Petersheim**, bestselling author of *The Outcast*

"*Shadow Sister* plunges readers into the worlds of two very different sisters: Jenna, who ran away from home to escape her past, and Sarah, who stayed home and forgot who she really was. Jones skillfully handles the juxtaposed settings and the sisters' divergent viewpoints to illustrate the way God pulls family back together...even if sometimes it must first be pulled apart." —**Heather Day Gilbert**, Grace-Award winner and bestselling author of *God's Daughter*

"With lyrical prose and a complex cast of characters, *Shadow Sister* tenderly reminds the reader there is hope in the midst of our brokenness. Bravo to Katherine Scott Jones for crafting a beautiful and bittersweet story about letting go of the past and embracing what lies ahead." —**Heidi McCahan**, author of *Unraveled* and *Covering Home*

“A twisting tale of love and betrayal that ends in new beginnings. *Shadow Sister* does not disappoint, satisfying not only the intellect, but the soul as well. Delving deep into issues that cripple families and developing countries, Jones pours God’s grace into the nooks and crannies, and then wraps it up in a blanket of forgiveness that warms the reader’s heart.” —**Paula Scott**, author of *The Mother Keeper*

“A beautiful story of family, love, and hope, *Shadow Sister* is a refreshing story of one woman’s journey through loss and heartache to redemption. Jones’s ability to create real characters and places will leave you wishing you could roam the streets of Bolivia. It will also open your heart to the marginalized and those serving them. I was left inspired and encouraged. I definitely recommend this book!” —**Jamie Lapeyrolerie**, INSPY Awards advisory-board member