

Jerusalem's Undead Trilogy FIELD OF BLOOD a novel by Eric Wilson

-- reading group guide --

1. As you read, did you recognize the Man from Kerioth's identity? What was the "fierce presence" he welcomed? How did his death coincide or conflict with your historical understanding?
2. Gina is a young woman dealing with a stern, superstitious mother. In what ways could you relate to Gina's struggle? Have you ever been scarred by similar relationships?
3. The Akeldama is a real place in Jerusalem. What significance is there in the fact that children were once sacrificed to Moloch there? Did the Akeldama Cluster gain strength from this, or do you think they contributed to that former evil?
4. Cal Nichols investigates the death of a young Norwegian, but later we see that he is also involved in Gina's childhood. What were your impressions of Cal? Why did he give Gina the pair of red orb earrings?
5. As the story progressed, did you wonder whose memories and whose blood was being unveiled in each section? What do you think about the biblical idea that "the life is in the blood"? Did the effects of the Nazarene Blood surprise you? Were they believable?
6. The Collectors have specific goals: to feed, breed, persuade, and possess. How did they accomplish these goals with Benjamin Amit and at the Constanta orphanage? The Romanian HIV outbreak of 1989 remains a mystery to this day. What did you think of the story's explanation?
7. Nikki Lazarescu has some secrets of her own. Did these make you more sympathetic toward her, or more frustrated with her treatment of Gina?
8. As the Houses of Ariston and Eros establish themselves, internal conflicts arise. How did these play out? How much of this was due to their human habitations, and how much to their roles as Collectors?
9. What did you think about the Collectors' ability to work through animal hosts? Is this a fictional tool, or does it have some other basis? They also begin to infest their prey, using thorns in a blasphemous form of communion. Are their thorns in your own life?
10. Did you relate in any way to Gina's struggle as she carried her child within? Do you, too, feel the sorrow and burdens of those around you?
11. When Gina's family life is turned upside down, how does she react? Did you see this as weakness or strength? Did you see her return to Romania as a good decision?
12. In the end, Gina has a choice to make. What were her options? Would another course of action have changed the outcome? Do you have any suspicions as to the journal writer's identity?