



Agave Blues  
by Ruthie Marlenée

Pages 1-27

- The sangre atrae, the blood calls you back. At some point in your life, have you had a calling to return to your roots?
- We are introduced to a blue fog. Is this Maya's imagination, hallucination, too much stress, too much Tequila or magical realism?
- Despite the disrespectful comments and attitudes of colleagues in her field and the innate racial bias, is Maya able to hold her own in court? How about in her personal life?
- For so many reasons, Maya has a strong aversion to returning home. At some point in your life, have you been reluctant to go home?

Pages 28-77

- What do you think about Maya being told to follow her dreams as long as they're not too big?
- What do you think about Maya getting so wrapped up in so much that she's forgotten or ignored her own health?
- What do you think about Maya naming her disease "Pepita"?
- Should Maya have given Zane another chance to work on things?
- Was it the right decision to send Lily away? What is the trajectory now for the relationship between mother and daughter?
- Is Maya running away from her problems or running toward something? Or Both? Have you ever thought of running away from your problems? Do you now know the differences between Blanco, Reposado and Anejo? Mezcal?
- Does cousin Antonio come across as angry that he has so much on his shoulders while his brother Gabriel sits in the field painting all day.

## Pages 78-133

- Maya thinks she did the best she could raising Lily, but was it right to keep her away from her grandfather? What about the rest of the family? Maya and her family talk about immigration. What do you think about the saying, “There are those who make it through a window and then want to shut the door on the others, even if it is family.”?
- Maya and Lily talk about Maya hating her father and Elliott. What do you think when Maya says, “You don’t really hate someone unless you love them.”?
- Is Lily really a tease or just a scared, angry girl?
- What about the rumor that Pancho Villa is a relative?
- What do you think about Maya recognizing her hat on the old woman? Why do you suppose Antonio is always so angry?
- Maya learns she has cancer? Should she have packed up her stuff and left right then?
- Is it strange that Gabriel always seems to show up when Maya is distressed?
- What about when Lily learns she had a twin?

## Pages 134-192

- Who might the second little shrine on the side of the road be for?
- Is it crazy for Maya to think she could run a Tequila business?
- Bruno makes an appearance here. Why might he be lurking around?
- What about the juxtaposition of Maya’s illness, the death of her father and the idea of Dia de Los Muertos or death as a celebration?
- There’s talk about Don Pio never stepping in to break up a fight or argument. Is that a way to handle things?
- Did you know that agave was used for so many things?
- Do you believe the painting showed that Maya’s father loved her?
- Maya meets her ghostly grandmother in the field and learns who really raped her and it wasn’t Pancho Villa? What do you think of this revelation?
- Was Maya overstepping by leading a yoga session?
- Is partnering with Bruno a good idea?

## Pages 193-261

1. Whose name do you think Maya sees on the other cemetery marker?
2. Maya walks into Antonio's place and goes through his things, including the book, *Sombre del viento*. And then is she dreaming, hallucinating or has she had too much Tequila she has the conversation with Gabriel?
3. How long do you suppose Maya has known about Gabriel?
4. Was Antonio justified at being so angry with everyone?
5. While agave is not a cure for what Maya has, do you think her belief that the agave field is magical and that the agave is miraculous might aid her in getting better?
6. Lily learns she had a twin who died at birth. What about the idea that he's been her guardian angel?
7. What about the reunion between Antonio and Victor Montoya? Should Antonio forgive him?
8. What about forgiveness? Maya's ancestors told her to forgive herself. For what?
9. Should Maya go back to the States and continue her practice?
10. Finally, should there be a sequel where Lily ends up running the Tequila business?