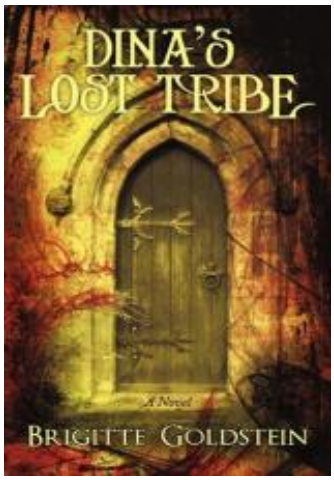
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Dina's Lost Tribe

by Brigitte Goldstein



About the Book

When Professor Henner Marcus receives an urgent plea from his niece, Nina Aschauer, he leaves Chicago behind and travels 5,000 miles to France. Nina has finally materialized after a five-year absence, and he is anxious to help her with the trouble she appears to be in. A historian, Nina is irresistibly driven to explore the Pyrenees Mountains for the location of her birth, occurring as her parents fled the Nazis. All she knows is that the name of the place is Valladine, but the name is not found on any map. Her inquiries lead her to an encounter with Alphonse de Sola, a rough-hewn shepherd who offers to take her there. What she finds is love, a medieval outpost arrested in time, and a written codex that thrusts her into the world of Dina Miryan, a medieval Jewish woman. As Henner, Nina, and her best friend, Etoile Assous, decipher the writing, they are irresistibly drawn into the story of this fourteenth-century woman, whose family had fled France following the expulsion in 1306, but who herself had fallen victim to the sexual intrigues of a fiendish priest. The three find themselves embroiled in a world of mystery, adventure, and danger spanning historical bounds.

Discussion Guide

1. What are the parallels between the historical epochs in which the characters live?

2. What is the relationship between Dina and the priest?

3. What motivates Dina to make the confession to her sons?

4. How is this Dina different from her biblical namesake?

5. In what way do the stories of Dina and Nina mirror each other? How are they different in mentality?

6. How is the mentality of the different periods expressed?

Author Bio

Brigitte Goldstein is a native of Germany and has had a lifelong passion for literature and history. As an undergraduate at Towson University in Maryland, she focused on both areas with particular emphasis on the development of the culture and civilization of Western Europe from the Early Middle Ages to modern times. She went on to graduate studies at New York University in European intellectual and social history as well as the history of modern Germany, for which she earned a Ph.D. degree. Before coming to the United States, she studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, and received a certificate in the study of French Civilization in the areas of the literature, history, philosophy, and art of France from the medieval to the modern period. She has taught college-level courses in Western Civilization, European Social History, and the History of European Women.

Critical Praise

"Goldstein shows a talent for making historical events feel relevant and alive. [She] describes the various settings?with prose that is both aesthetically pleasing and intellectually satisfying."

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