

CORPO CELESTE

Discussion Guide

1. The city of Reggio Calabria is simultaneously old-fashioned and modern. How is modernity portrayed in *Corpo Celeste*? Is it indicted or celebrated? How so?
2. The title of the film, “*corpo celeste*,” can be interpreted a number of ways. Literally, a “celestial body” refers to a planet, star, or other astronomical object. An alternate translation, “heavenly body,” evokes the much older concept of heaven itself, as well as the conflict within the film about the figurative crucifix and the image of the body of Christ. Marta, too, is concerned with issues of the body, as the film tracks her coming of age, physically, as well as spiritually. Director Alice Rohrwacher, for her part, says that “the Celestial Body, the world above, is already where we are.” Discuss this metaphor as it relates to the themes of the film.
3. Is Don Mario a sympathetic character? How do your feelings about him change over the course of the film? Do you agree with his decision to take Marta with him on his journey? What might Marta and Don Mario have in common?
4. Discuss the cinematography of the film. What does it make you feel? What does the handheld camera style, for example, help to communicate about the film’s ideas?

