

### Thought Questions for Kitchen and Moonlight Shadow

1. Why is Erico so important to Yuichi and Mikage? How does Erico play into their lives?
2. Why did Erico become a woman? Would she have changed her sex if her wife hadn't died?
3. What would have happened to Yuichi if Mikage hadn't come in the end of the story?
4. "In the uncertain ebb and flow of time and emotions, much of one's life is etched in the senses." (p.75) How is this true for the characters in Kitchen, and do you think it's true to everyone in general?
5. "She [Chika] made me realize that the human heart is something very precious." (p.86) What about Chika made Mikage feel this?
6. Compare the two stories. How do characters in Kitchen have the same experiences and behave similarly to the characters in Moonlight Shadow?
7. All characters feel a sense of aloneness due to their grief. Is there any way for them to touch each other?
8. How does each character work through his or her grief?
9. "In places where a loved one has died, time stops for eternity." (p.124) What does this mean and how is it true for Hiiragi and Satsuki?
10. Do you think that Urara is a real person or is she a figment of Satsuki's imagination?