



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

“The Witches of New York” by Ami McKay

1. All three women have faced challenges in their lives that have required them to start over again. In your opinion, do any of the characters' struggles parallel modern issues?
2. The novel is set in the 1880s near the beginning of the suffragette movement. Discuss ways the characters challenge societal perceptions of women, either modern or historical.
3. The three women circumvent the laws by offering contraception in a period where it is illegal and considered immoral. Is their courage and determination to offer wisdom and assistance a different kind of magic?
4. Discuss one incident in the novel that you thought was shocking.
5. Discuss one aspect of the story that you thought was inspirational.
6. What is the significance of making the main characters witches?
7. Dr. Brody is a man of science, and he is intrigued by the women and their powers. Discuss the role Brody plays in the story.
8. In contrast, Reverend Townsend is depicted as a villain. Compare and contrast the relationship the women have with Townsend and Brody. What does this reveal about societal perceptions of women?
9. As Beatrice's powers grow, a division begins to manifest between Eleanor and Adelaide eventually leading to Beatrice's disappearance. What is the significance of this conflict?
10. McKay's fictional story is intertwined with historical events. What is the significance of Cleopatra's Needle, an Egyptian obelisk?

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Book Club in a Bag

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