

FICTION BOOK CLUB

January 2020 Selection

The Witch's Kind by Louisa Morgan

An absorbing tale of love, sacrifice, family ties, and magic, set in the Pacific Northwest in the aftermath of World War II, by the author of A Secret History of Witches.

Barrie Anne Blythe and her aunt Charlotte have always known that the other residents of their small coastal community find them peculiar -- two women living alone on the outskirts of town. It is the price of concealing their strange and dangerous family secret.

But two events threaten to upend their lives forever. The first is the arrival of a mysterious abandoned baby with a hint of power like their own. The second is the sudden reappearance of Barrie Anne's long-lost husband -- who is not quite the man she thought she married.

Together, Barrie Anne and Charlotte must decide how far they are willing to go to protect themselves -- and the child they think of as their own -- from suspicious neighbors, the government, and even their own family...

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Discussion Questions:

- 1. Barrie Anne, Charlotte, and Emma form a nontraditional, but loving, family. How are themes of family important to the story?
- 2. The tragic secrets of Barrie Anne's past are revealed slowly over the course of the novel. What were some early hints about what she had experienced? How did you react as each bit was revealed?
- 3. Some of the women in Charlotte and Barrie Anne's family may be "water witches," and Emma is found in the water. What are some other ways in which water is a significant force in the story?



- 4. "Water magic" can give premonitions about coming events. How do these glimpses into the future grant the women in Charlotte and Barrie Anne's family power? Would you want to see what water magic might reveal about your own future?
- 5. Barrie Anne is preoccupied at various points in her life with being (or seeming) "normal." How does that affect the choices she makes? How do Charlotte and Emma shift her opinions about being "normal"?
- 6. The shadow of World War II looms over much of the story, and yet there are no scenes of battle. What are some ways in which the war plays out at home for these characters?
- 7. Emma's origins are never completely explained, and nor is what the government agents are looking for. What do you think really happened?
- 8. The story is told in non-chronological sections. How would the reading experience be different if the story were written chronologically from the earliest to the latest events?
- 9. What do you think will happen to Emma, Barrie Anne, and Charlotte as Emma gets older and develops new powers?
- 10. The magic in this book is mostly small and domestic, rather than flashy or destructive. Do you believe that kind of magic could be hiding beneath the surface of our world?

Review or Comment about this book:

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Recommendations:

- > If you liked *The Witch's Kind*, you might like <u>A Secret History of Witches</u>
- > You might also enjoy *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*