



A Curse So Dark and Lonely

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

August 2022 Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. One of the themes of this book is honor and loyalty. Have you read any other books that have a similar theme? What are your predictions for how this theme will play out in the book?
2. A Curse So Dark and Lonely is a modern retelling of the fairytale Beauty and the Beast, originally written in Paris by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve in 1695. Click [here](#) to read the original story of Beauty and the Beast. Have you ever read or watched any other retellings of this story? How did they do in comparison to the original?
3. Harper was born with cerebral palsy. Have you ever heard of this condition before? If not, do some quick research on this topic. What are some difficulties a person with this condition would have to face on a daily basis?

Post-reading questions

1. Rhen has asked a lot of Grey. Some of his orders could be considered childish and in some cases even deadly. What do you think would be more difficult for Grey? Killing Rhen before he can turn into the Beast or defy the orders of his King? Explain your answer.
2. Grey is extremely loyal to Rhen and his kingdom. Why do you think he has been so loyal when Rhen has treated him so poorly in the past? What characteristics should a good leader have to inspire loyalty? Consider how Rhen's father chose to rule Emberfall in comparison to Rhen.
3. Harper brings her brother's cell phone into Emberfall when she is abducted by Grey. How is her phone similar to Belle's magic mirror in the original Beauty and the Beast?
4. What do you think Rhen meant by this quote? Do you think there is any truth to this belief? "My father once said we are all dealt a hand at birth. A good hand can ultimately lose - just as a poor hand can ultimately win - but we must all play the cards fate deals. The choices we face may not be the choices we want, but they are choices nonetheless."
5. Rhen and Grey have very different memories of the same events, for example when Rhen ordered Grey to ride all day without food or water and after the first monster attack. Why do you think the two view these events so differently? Why is Rhen so critical of himself and his past actions?
6. Harper fights for Jamison to become Grey's lieutenant. What about her experiences do you think causes her to speak on Jamison's behalf?
7. Rhen treats Harper like she can do anything she sets her mind to, unlike many others in her life who tend to focus on her disability. Do you think this is common in the real world? What can people do to make this belief more common?

Post-reading activities

1. The author continued Harper, Grey, and Rhen's story in a sequel. Where do you think the story will go from here? Write an epilogue chapter that sets up the next book in this series. Then, if you would like, read book two of *A Curse So Dark and Lonely* and see how well your prediction was. You can follow the guidelines at www.tomesociety.org/competitions and enter your writing into the Tome Fan Fiction competition.
2. When you first picked up this book, did the cover interest you at all? Do you think it was a good representation of what the book was about? If not, do a digital cover redesign and submit it to the Tome Society Digital Cover Redesign competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <https://brigidkemmerer.com/>

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