



Hush

Dylan Farrow

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

September 2022 Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. In the world of Hush, the written word has been forbidden. Imagine what the world would look like if there were no written languages. What challenges would this present for mankind? How would this affect different parts of your life? Think about the impact on technology and social media.
2. The power of words, both written and spoken, is a major theme in Dylan Farrow's book Hush. Discuss the power of rumors. How are they created, how do they grow and evolve, and ultimately how can they ever be stopped?
3. What do you like about the cover? Does it match the description of the book?

Post-reading questions

1. Shae says, "Someone's being extraordinary is to be extraordinarily lonely." Discuss your thoughts on this statement. What types of people do you think may be most affected by this type of loneliness? Can you think of any famous people, past or present, that may have felt this way?
2. What is the Book of Days? Why do you think it is so important in Montane? Would you consider it a history book of sorts? Consider how our world would be different if we did not have history books to learn from.
3. Why do you think Shae's mom decided not to speak after her son died?
4. In Lord Cathal's eyes, the Book of Days is dangerous in the hands of the people of Montane. Why do you think he believes this? Do you think there is any truth in his words? Could there ever be times when some information should be kept from the public? Discuss this concept in regards to our own government, should they tell the people everything?
5. After learning that Mads worked for the Bards as a secret informant and Shae's mom secretly helped people escape to Gondal, how do you feel? It seems like everyone in Shae's life is keeping secrets. Do you blame them? How do you think Shae will handle all the deceit?
6. Lord Cathal and the Bard dedicate their lives to eradicating the existence of Gondal. Why do you think this is? What could possibly be so threatening about Gondal that it must be removed from the people of Montane's minds?
7. Who were your favorite and least favorite characters of this book? If you could change something about one of the characters, what would you change and why? Discuss why with others.

Post-reading activities

1. At the end of Shae's story in Hush, we are fairly certain that it will continue in a sequel. Write an epilogue to Hush or a first chapter starting off the next book. Have your advisor submit your finished chapter to the It List Fan Fiction competition.
2. After having read the book, does your original opinion of the book cover still stand? If you could change the cover, how would you redesign it? Digitally redesign the book cover and ask your advisor to submit your completed work to the It List Digital Cover Redesign competition.

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