

TIGER'S CURSE by Colleen Houck



ABOUT THE SERIES

The last thing Kelsey Hayes thought she'd be doing this summer was trying to break a 300-year old Indian curse. With a mysterious white tiger named Ren. Halfway around the world.

But that's exactly what happened.

Face-to-face with dark forces, spellbinding magic, and mystical worlds where nothing is what it seems, Kelsey risks everything to piece together an ancient prophecy that could break the curse forever.

Packed with magic, action-adventure, and romance, the epic *Tiger's Curse* series will keep you breathless and yearning for more.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Do you think it was fate that led Kelsey to the Circus Maurizio—or just chance?
2. Should Mr. Kadam and Ren have told Kelsey the real reason they wanted her to travel to India before she left home?
3. Mr. Kadam finds that his aging process has been slowed so that he can care for Ren and Kishan. However, he has also watched his beloved wife and generations of their descendents age and die. Would you accept the price that Mr. Kadam must pay in exchange for superhuman longevity?
4. *Tiger's Curse* takes sibling rivalry to the ultimate level. Should Ren have forgiven Kishan after three hundred years, or was his brother's betrayal too great?
5. While flirting with Kelsey, Ren pretends that he is the predator and she is his prey: "He was tracking me, hunting me. His eyes locked on mine and pinned me to the spot where I was standing" (p. 179). How is romance like a hunt? What are the ways in which it should never be like one?

6. The broken Damon amulet is named after the Goddess Durga's tiger. Why hasn't Lokesh tried to capture Mr. Kadam and Kishan's pieces before? What powers do you imagine it might offer once it is whole?
7. Kelsey is jealous when Mr. Kadam tells her that Ren and Kishan had once broken into their father's harem. Is it fair to feel jealous about something your girlfriend/boyfriend did before you even met?
8. Houck uses a lot of Hindi words and phrases. Does their presence enhance or detract from the story?
9. Ren tells Kelsey how "being caged made me think long and hard about my relationships with other creatures, especially the elephants and horses" (p. 231). How do you think human behavior would change if we all had to spend time in an animal's body?
10. After the brothers' confrontation with Lokesh, Ren was turned into a white tiger and Kishan into a black tiger. Kishan's darker coloring allowed him to survive more easily in the wild, while Ren became easy prey for angry villagers. Is Ren meant to symbolize good and Kishan evil?
11. Is Kishan just flirting with Kelsey to annoy his brother?
12. Kelsey decides that she can't lose her heart to Ren because he's too perfect, and she fears he'll think she's not good enough for him. Can you relate to Kelsey's dilemma? Have you ever chosen safety over risk? Did you regret your decision or not?
13. How much did you know about Indian mythology before reading *Tiger's Curse*? Discuss its similarities and differences compared to the folklore and mythology of other cultures.



Colleen Houck's *Tiger's Curse*, *Tiger's Quest*, and *Tiger's Voyage* were *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestsellers. A resident of Salem, OR, Colleen lives with her husband and a life-sized white stuffed tiger.

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TIGER'S QUEST by Colleen Houck



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Are Kelsey's experiences with Artie and Jason typical for a young woman dating for the first time?
2. How would you have handled being asked out by someone you had no interest in dating? Do you believe the old adage that "you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince"?
3. Should Kelsey have given Li more of a chance? Would she ultimately be happier with a mortal human like herself?
4. If you were being wooed, would you rather receive a perfectly selected poem by a famous writer or an original one—that's perhaps not as well-written—from your suitor? Which of Ren's poems to Kelsey is the most romantic?
5. Kelsey thinks of her parents every time she makes a batch of her double-chocolate-chip-peanut-butter cookies. Is there a food that you always associate with a loved one? Why do you think food can evoke so many memories?

6. What does the Ocean Teacher mean when he says, "One's enemy is often the best teacher of tolerance" (p. 248)?
7. Which of the tests faced by Kelsey and Kishan in Shangri-La would you have found most difficult to face?
8. While sleeping in the Grove of Dreams, Kishan sees Kelsey holding a sleeping baby named Anik and feels that the child is his. Was this a vision or a dream?
9. When Kelsey and Kishan are on the verge of capturing the Divine Scarf, she has a vision in which Lokesh demands Kelsey's piece of the medallion—but he's seemingly uninterested in Mr. Kadam's portion. Why?
10. Did Kelsey, Kishan, and Mr. Kadam make the most of the Divine Scarf when they attacked Lokesh's encampment? Were there other disguises that might have been more successful?
11. What do you think happened to Ren's memory of Kelsey?
12. Colleen Houck's series brilliantly connects everything from Hindu and Greek mythology to the Old Testament to Tibetan Buddhism to fairy tales and more. Are humankind's early stories really linked, or are their similarities just a coincidence?



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TIGER'S VOYAGE by Colleen Houck



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Do Ren and Kishan have a good reason to distrust Wes, their Texan diving instructor, or are they merely jealous?
2. What do you think Phet means when he calls Kishan, "the father of many" (p. 42)?
3. At the beach party in Trivandrum, Ren makes sure that Kelsey sees him dancing with a number of beautiful women—including Nilima. Since the series reveals little about Nilima's interior life, do you think that she has hidden feelings for Ren? What is her role in the series?
4. Why is the length of Kelsey's hair such a point of contention between her and Ren?
5. What is Lady Silkworm trying to say when she shares her own sad history with Kelsey?
6. Even after Ren recovers his memory, Kelsey chooses to honor her promise and continue dating Kishan. But even if she loves

him, she's not "in love" with him. If you were Kishan, would you accept Kelsey's affections under those conditions?

7. At first, the dragons appear to be quite fierce, but eventually Kelsey discovers their weaknesses, and they actually seem quite childish. What is the dragons' metaphorical significance?
8. After Kishan located Durga's black pearl necklace, Kelsey found herself "transformed" into Parvati while Kishan became Shiva and Ren Indra. Given the fact that Shiva cast Parvati out—much as Ren did to Kelsey—why isn't it Ren who's transformed into Shiva?
9. If you were to undertake the adventures faced by Kelsey and her tigers, with which of Durga's weapons would you choose to arm yourself?
10. Although Kelsey battles dragons and the monstrous kraken, sharks are what terrify her the most. Why?
11. Kelsey tells herself that "if another opportunity to 'save me' came along, [Ren] wouldn't hesitate. He'd once again sacrifice himself, and I'd be alone" (p. 454). Is Ren more concerned with behaving heroically than keeping Kelsey happy?
12. Ren liberally quotes from William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* throughout *Tiger's Voyage*. Is it an apt analogy for their situation? Is Ren and Kelsey's relationship a comedy or a tragedy?



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