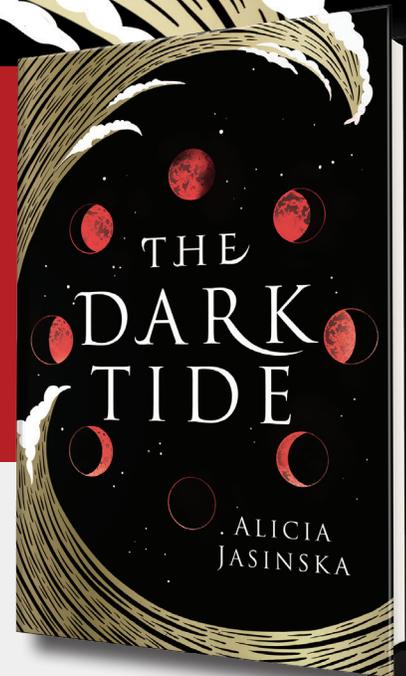


THE DARK TIDE

BY ALICIA JASINSKA

DISCUSSION GUIDE



1. Every year, Caldella's Witch Queen sacrifices an innocent boy to keep the island city from sinking. Do you think it's acceptable to sacrifice one life to preserve the lives of many?
2. How would you react if someone you loved were chosen as sacrifice? Would you choose to sacrifice the person you loved to save your world, or would you doom the world to save that person?
3. Would you sacrifice yourself in order to save someone you loved? Or, like Eva, do you think that would be a foolish thing to do?
4. Despite its cursed and hungry tide, Caldella is an island of witches and revels and strange magics. Would you want to live there regardless of the danger?
5. *The Dark Tide* is a loose retelling of the Scottish ballad of Tam Lin written from a queer perspective largely absent in traditional folk and fairy tales. What fairy tale motifs and tropes can you identify in the story? How does the narrative subvert them?
6. In the book we see things from both Lina and Eva's point of view. How might aspects of the story be different if they had been told from another character's perspective?
7. Was there a character whose point of view you would have liked to have read?
8. Lina and Eva both have complicated relationships with their siblings and those whom they consider family. How does Lina's relationship with her brother Finley compare with Eva's relationships with her sister and Marcin?
9. How are Lina and Eva alike? Are they very different? Do their similarities and differences make their relationship more or less difficult?
10. How did their feelings toward each other change over the course of the story? What do you think will happen between them in the future?
11. Do you feel Thomas Lin was partly or fully responsible for the death of Eva's sister? Why or why not?
12. In the end, do you think Eva made the right decision?