



Book Club Kit

Dear Reader,

I have a confession: I've watched *The Muppet Christmas Carol* at least forty times. My children refuse to watch it with me, because I can't help but quote the lines. I love the holidays, but like many people, I don't connect with every element of how they're celebrated. My adult life has been about finding what elements of holiday tradition feel true to me and my family, so that we keep hold of what connects us to our ancestors, while remaking what needs to be changed to reflect us and the world we want to live in—because the winter holidays slow us down and remind us of who we want to be, and what we owe one another, and that changes as often as we do.

Love stories do the same, which is why holiday romance is, to me, like peanut butter and chocolate, uniquely sincere and unapologetic in searching for who we might be, if we allow love to lead the way. I began this book at a difficult time in my life, when despair was high and hope low, and writing it was a deliberate action of cultivating joy.

So, I filled it with everything about the holidays that brings me joy, and in particular holiday romances. I wanted to capture the familiar, cozy elements of those stories I love in a way that felt fresh, magical, and applicable to modern readers. There's small-town antics, enemies-to-lovers banter, hygge excuses to force our reluctant lovers close, heaps of food, and a cast of characters I hope you'll fall in love with, all interwoven with a healthy dose of witchy magic.

On my journey to write this, I realized what my main character, Rowan, does, that many emotions we often mistake for passive states are instead deliberate, interconnected courses of action—joy, hope, trust, and especially love. And alongside all my joys, I gave the book my sorrows too, because the crackle of the fire calls only because it's cold outside. You can't have one without the other, and anyone who tells you otherwise is a wolf at the door.

I hope that should you find yourself in a place where the winter nights feel too long and the world too heavy, you open this book and it brings you joy, and that you find your own way to keep the holidays that helps you remember that the world keeps turning, and the sun will come again, and to always allow love to lead the way.

Best,
Morgan



Discussion Questions

1. How is the theme of hope in dark times explored in the holiday traditions of Yule and in Rowan's journey? Where do you look for hope when you're having a hard time finding it?
2. What was represented in Rowan's repression of her magic, in particular as it related to her relationship with Gavin?
3. The magic of every coven member also said something about who they were individually. Which of the coven members and their magic do you most relate to? How do you think your magical ability would express?
4. The magic of the coven was strongest when they were together. What reasons for this does the text suggest, and why else might collective magic exceed an individual caster's potential?
5. How were the dynamics of Gavin's relationship to his father holding him back? What happens when circumstances result in a parentified child, and how do people who experience that find ways to move past the damage later in life?
6. Rowan starts off unsure of her magical abilities. How did her confidence evolve over the course of the story? What moments or relationships do you think played the biggest role in that shift?
7. Returning home throws Rowan back into the world of her estranged coven. How did being back affect her relationships, especially with her mother and Zaide? Did those dynamics change in ways that surprised you?
8. Yule traditions are woven deeply into the story's magic. Were there any symbols, motifs, or rituals that stood out to you? How did the magical elements enhance (or complicate) the cozy, traditional holiday atmosphere?
9. From *A Spell for a Clear Mind* to *A Spell to Draw Attention*, magic is used in creative ways throughout the book. If you could cast one of the spells from the story in your own life, which one would you choose—and why?
10. Rowan casts a spell to forget her past with Gavin. Do you think she was justified in using magic that way? Would you have made the same choice in her position?

Listen to a playlist from the author!

Yule: The End of the Darkness

TROBAR DE MORTE

Good King Wenceslas

THE GOTHARD SISTERS

The Holly & the Ivy

LOREENA McKENNITT

Pale Sweet Healing

THE IRREPRESSIBLES

Winter Solstice

MICHELE McLAUGHLIN

Soldier, Poet, King

THE OH HELLOS

Scan to listen in-app

