



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton

1. *The Clockmaker's Daughter* begins with the assertion that “we came to Birchwood Manor because Edward said that it was haunted. It wasn't. Not then” (p. 3). How does this passage create a sense of mystery surrounding Birchwood Manor?
2. Birchwood Manor feels like another character in the book. Discuss the connection that Edward feels to the house.
3. Why do you think Kate Morton chose to title her novel *The Clockmaker's Daughter*? Who is she? How does her story tie the other plotlines in the novel together?
4. Why do you think that Pale Joe shows Birdie kindness? Describe their friendship. What does each offer the other? Were you surprised to realize who Pale Joe is? Why do you think Birdie is willing to share her nickname with Pale Joe?
5. Storytelling is a central theme in the novel. What purposes does storytelling serve? How does Kate Morton connect the characters within *The Clockmaker's Daughter*?
6. What did you think of Fanny? Describe her relationship with Edward. Compare his relationships with Fanny and Birdie. How is Edward different when he is with Birdie?
7. According to Birdie, Fanny “has become a tragic heroine, impossible though that is for one who knew her in life to believe” (p. 131). What did you think of Fanny? Describe her relationship with Edward.
8. “Ada's parents had left her at Miss Radcliffe's School for Young Ladies in the misguided expectation that she would be magically transformed into a proper English schoolgirl” (p. 164). Do you agree that this is the mission of Miss Radcliffe's school?

The above questions were adapted from
http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Clockmakers-Daughter/Kate-Morton/9781451649390/reading_group_guide to enhance your discussion of the book.

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