THE BRIAR CLUB by Kate Quinn

Book Club Questions

1. The novel is set against the backdrop of the Red Scare and McCarthyism. How do these historical events impact the lives and choices of the characters?

2. The point of view rotates among the women of the boarding home. Frequently when we get to a new point of view we find that the truth differs from the perceptions that others have. Why do you think Quinn chose to tell the story in this way and what is she trying to say with it?

3. Whose point of view did you most enjoy inhabiting? Alternatively, which character did you have the most difficulty connecting with, and what contributed to that?

4. Briarwood house itself narrates some of the chapters. How does the house's perspective shape the reader's understanding of the events and characters? Did you enjoy hearing from an inanimate object?

5. Compare and contrast the different women living at Briarwood House. How do their backgrounds, personalities, and secrets contribute to the dynamics of the group?

6. Discuss the role Grace March plays in bringing the women together. What does her character represent in terms of female empowerment and community building?

7. Examine the themes of secrecy, deception, and truth-telling in the novel. How do the characters' hidden pasts and double lives affect their relationships?

8. Food plays a significant part in the story. Discuss the symbolic meaning of the Briar Club's communal meals and how they foster a sense of belonging.

9. Which recipe most tantalized your taste buds? Have you tried or are you planning to try any of the recipes in the book?

10. Discuss the murder mystery. Were you expecting it to play a larger role in the story? Were you surprised by who the victim and who the perpetrator were?

11. Have you read other novels by Kate Quinn? This one is set in a different time period (not WW II), and uses a different narrative device. How did it compare to her previous work?

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