

Discussion Guide For *To Condemn a Witch*

by [Lisa A. Traugott](#)



About the Book

Scotland, 1729.

When orphaned laundress Eleanor Cameron crosses paths with a mysterious coven tied to prophecy, ghosts, and forbidden magic, she becomes entangled in a deadly world where women can be condemned for healing, speaking too boldly, or simply surviving.

As a witch hunter tightens his grip and old betrayals resurface, three women — Eleanor, Fiona, and Matilda — must decide whether magic is a curse... or the only thing standing between them and destruction.

Blending Scottish folklore, supernatural suspense, historical research, and emotionally layered family drama, *To Condemn a Witch* explores the cost of power, the scars left by persecution, and the bonds women forge in the darkest of times.

Perfect for readers who enjoy gritty atmospheric historical fantasy in the spirit of *Game of Thrones* and gothic tales of witchcraft, prophecy, and resilience with a touch of *Outlander* vibes.

Themes to Explore

- Witch trials and the persecution of women
 - Power, class, and social control in the 18th century
 - Female friendship, betrayal, and found family
 - The blurred line between healing and “witchcraft”
 - Trauma, redemption, and generational wounds
 - Ghosts, folklore, and the supernatural
 - Motherhood, prophecy, and sacrifice
 - The tension between revenge and forgiveness
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Discussion Questions

1.

Throughout the novel, accusations of witchcraft are often tied to fear, power, and social control rather than actual evidence. Why do you think societies create “outsiders” to blame during times of uncertainty?

2.

Eleanor longs for love, belonging, and security, yet many of her choices place her in danger. Did you sympathize with her? Why or why not?

3.

Matilda is one of the novel’s most morally complex characters. How did your feelings toward her change throughout the story?

4.

The novel explores both healing magic and destructive magic. Do you think power itself is dangerous, or does danger come from how power is used?

5.

Several characters struggle with revenge. Which character do you believe handled betrayal in the healthiest way — and which handled it the worst?

6.

How did the supernatural elements enhance the emotional stakes of the story rather than distract from the historical setting?

7.

The book highlights how women's knowledge — especially around healing, childbirth, herbs, and intuition — was often feared or suppressed. Do you see parallels in modern society?

8.

Found family becomes increasingly important throughout the novel. Which relationships felt the most meaningful or transformative to you?

9.

The setting feels almost like a character itself, from the Scottish Highlands to candlelit rituals and harsh social conditions. Which scenes or locations stayed with you the longest?

10.

Many characters are forced to choose between survival and morality. Which decision in the book challenged you the most as a reader?

11.

Prophecy plays a major role in the story. Do you believe the characters are trapped by fate, or do they still have free will?

12.

Ghosts and the Otherworld are woven throughout the novel. What do you think the spirits symbolize emotionally or psychologically?

13.

The novel contains both brutal moments and deeply hopeful ones. Why do you think stories set during dark periods in history still resonate with readers today?

14.

If you could ask one character a question after finishing the book, who would it be and what would you ask?

15.

The story ends with both resolution and lingering consequences. What do you think happens next for the surviving characters?

Book Club Extras

Pair Your Discussion With...

Foods & Drinks

- Scottish shortbread
- Tea with honey or lavender
- Mulled cider or spiced wine
- Blackberry desserts
- Rustic soups or stews

Atmosphere Ideas

- Candlelight or Halloween décor
- Celtic instrumental music
- Autumn-inspired table settings
- Dried herbs or wildflowers as centerpieces

Bonus Activity

Research a real historical witch trial and compare it to the events in the novel. What similarities surprised you most?

Author's Note to Readers

While *To Condemn a Witch* contains ghosts, prophecy, and supernatural elements, many of the fears, laws, and social conditions depicted in the novel were inspired by real history. Women throughout Scotland, England, and Colonial America were accused, imprisoned, tortured, and executed for witchcraft — often because they were vulnerable, outspoken, poor, healers, or simply inconvenient to those in power.

At its heart, this story asks a timeless question:

What happens to a society when fear becomes more powerful than compassion?

Thank you for stepping into the shadows with these characters.

— [Lisa Traugott](#)

Continue the Journey

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Also available: — the companion novel in the Tales of the Witchborn series - [To Rescue a Witch](#).