

## BITTER MAGIC

### Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. Most of us have an idea of what happened during the “witch craze” of the 1600s through 1800s, a time of fear and mass violence towards innocent women healers. Did Isobel’s story change your views on this? And how?
2. Which character(s) did you empathize with and why?
3. Describe Margaret’s relationships with Isobel and with Katharine.
4. Isobel and Katharine personify two different forms of spirituality during the 1600s. How are they different? Do you see any similarities between them?
5. Some readers see a feminist theme in the novel. Did you see that? And how so?
6. What did you think of Isobel’s out of body experiences? Were they real or delusions, as Katharine said?
7. Almost everyone in 1600s Scotland believed in the reality of the “Otherworld.” What is your opinion of this place?
8. What do you see as the main themes in this novel?