



BOOK CLUB KITS

THIS KIT CONTAINS

- ◆ 10 Regular Hardcover Copies
- ◆ 1 Book on CD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA BY T.J. KLUNE

- 1) This book runs on an emotional engine, capitalizing on the six major emotions of fear, anger, disgust, surprise, happiness and sadness. Were you feeling the feels while reading the book? Which scenes or characters elicited the most emotional response from you?
- 2) The book's prose is descriptive, in a very wry way. For instance, in the first chapter, Klune introduces us to Ms. Jenkins of the Department in Charge of Magical Youth (DICOMY).

First he describes her office decor- "The walls were lined with terrible paintings of lemurs in various poses". And then he describes her person- "as was her wont, she appeared to have applied her makeup rather liberally in the dark without benefit of a mirror".

How did you find the setting and character descriptions? Did you have a favorite line?

- 3) Linus goes on both a physical and an emotional journey when he visits the school. He was always diligent in his work, but he was also very emotionally stoppered up. What was it about the school, the kids and Arthur that cracked Linus open?
- 4) DICOMY exercises some serious institutional overreach. The creepy slogans give you insight into their real purpose. Talk about some other books and movies that feature dictatorial overreach or magical suppression. (Hint: 1984, Children of Men, City of Brass series, The Bartimaeus Trilogy, Spellbreaker, The Magician's Guild, Children of Blood and Bone.)
- 5) Talk about Sal's poem. What was your gut reaction to it? How does it represent the themes of the book?
- 6) There are some ways in which Marsyas is a completely normal boarding school, such as having dinner together and talking about what you learned that day. And then there are things going on that definitely aren't on your local school board's approved curriculum. Discuss what you found perfectly to be normal about the school, and then share a few ways in which the school was charting its own course.
- 7) What were you expecting of Arthur? Did you believe that he was simply a headmaster, or did you suspect that he had powers? What did you think about his big reveal?
- 8) "Change often starts with the smallest of whispers. Like-minded people building it up to a roar." Linus clearly changes in the book and it seems that the villagers are coming along as well. Could the events of this book start a ripple of change in DICOMY and Extremely Upper Management?
- 9) Which of the students did you relate to the most? Or rather, which of them would you like to be for a day?
- 10) How did the different connections of characters in the book add to the story?