

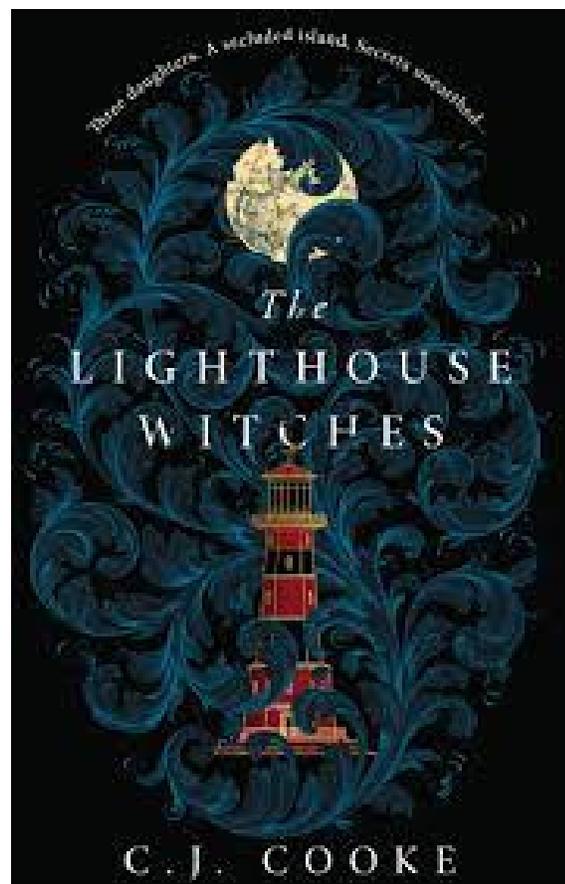


Best Book Club

Where We Talk About All Things Books and Book Club

Author Bio- Carolyn Jess-Cook

Carolyn Jess-Cooke is an Irish author who began writing at the age of seven. She studied at Queen's University in Belfast where she earned a BA, an MA and a PhD by the age of 25. She then became a lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Sunderland. She is now a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Glasgow and researching the ways that creative writing can help with trauma and mental health. She also directed a project called Writing Motherhood which explored the impact of motherhood on women's writing.



Synopsis

Upon the cliffs of a remote Scottish island, Lòn Haven, stands a lighthouse. A lighthouse that has weathered more than storms. Mysterious and terrible events have happened on this island. It started with a witch hunt. Now, centuries later, islanders are vanishing without explanation. Coincidence? Or curse? Liv Stay flees to the island with her three daughters, in search of a home. She doesn't believe in witches, or dark omens, or hauntings. But within months, her daughter Luna will be the only one of them left. Twenty years later, Luna is drawn back to the place her family vanished. As the last sister left, it's up to her to find out the truth... But what really happened at the lighthouse all those years ago?

Discussion Questions

1. What did you think of Liv's decision to leave for Lòn Haven in the middle of the night? Do you understand her motives?
2. Discuss Isla as a character and her reasons for staying on the island?
3. Why did the islanders believe in the wildlings myth? Do you think that they could have been convinced of the truth?
4. Knowing who the wildling children actually are, how would you explain their odd behaviour?
5. In the end, Patrick's spell was successful and he was reunited with Amy. Was he a villain in this story?
6. Carolyn Jess-Cook has done work exploring how motherhood affects women's writing. How is motherhood portrayed and explored in this novel?
7. Luna continues looking for an explanation for what happened to them. "She still doesn't believe in magic. It's a technology, she's decided. Just one that she doesn't understand yet." What does this statement mean to you?

General Questions

1. Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
2. What did you think of the writing overall? Were there any standout sentences?
3. Which was your favorite part? What about your least favorite?
4. Did reading the book impact your mood?
If yes, how so?

