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SECRETS. SEDUCTION. SACRIFICE.

A GAME OF FATE

1. Hades, Thanatos, and the Fates have a complicated relationship, all working between life and death. How does Hades use the idea of “bargain and balance” to offer what fairness and redemption he can to mortals? Does he have a realistic grasp on his limits?
2. Aphrodite could have asked for anything in her bargain with Hades. Why might she have asked Hades to make someone fall in love with him? Do you think she genuinely wanted to help Hades?
3. After seeing Persephone’s point of view in *A Touch of Darkness* and now Hades’s in *A Game of Fate*, what are some of the ways Hades initially doesn’t understand Persephone’s heart? What new ways do we discover Persephone didn’t understand Hades from the start, either?
4. What insights does Hades’s perspective offer about the other gods’ personal lives, such as Aphrodite, Hephaestus, and Helios, that Persephone doesn’t get to see? Do these glimpses into the gods’ lives make them seem more or less human?
5. Hades can see fate, and so he knows from the start that Persephone is meant to be his lover. Does this knowledge help or hurt him as he develops real feelings for her? What might have changed if neither of them had known the truth?
6. “A soul for a soul” is a constant, looming threat in Hades’s line of work. How does he work with and against that idea as he tries to stop Sisyphus and Triad?
7. Hades allows Persephone and the mortal realm to think the worst of him, even when it would be easy to show off his good deeds instead of keeping them a secret. Why does he do this, and does loving Persephone change his perspective? How is the Halcyon Project an example?
8. *A Game of Fate* shows more of Hades’s violence, as well as the dangers of the world of the gods, than *A Touch of Darkness*. How might Persephone react if she knew about Poseidon, Sisyphus, and Triad? Would the Persephone at the beginning of the story react differently than the Persephone at the end?
9. The author’s note discusses the myth of Sisyphus. How does this book adapt that story, and how, as the author mentions, does “Hades’s journey mirror this same fate” but with a different, more positive outcome?
10. Vasilis asks Hades, “What would you trade for something you loved?” and Hades’s internal reply is, “The world.” How is Hades’s world changed by his love for Persephone? How does he overcome his fear of “exposing the truth of my heart—that I have always desired to love and be loved”?