



SCARLETT St. CLAIR

SECRETS. SEDUCTION. SACRIFICE.

MOUNTAINS MADE OF GLASS

1. The author's note explains how the novella is inspired by many different fairy tales, and how the genre is a mix of "fantasy and horror....ridiculous and romantic." How does the author combine traditional fairy tale structures and themes with the tropes and styling of contemporary romance?
2. Gesela personifies the Enchanted Forest, blaming "her" for the loss of her family and her resulting pain. Similarly, the Glass Mountains have a voice and bargain with Gesela in a tangible way. How can the setting of a story become a character in a fantasy world, even if it isn't in as literal a way as the Glass Mountains?
3. No one knows how Elk's "curse of curses" began, but the mayor takes advantage of it to rid his town of those he deems "unworthy." How does that parallel the way real stories, myths, legends, religions, etc. can be abused by people in power? What are the risks in blind faith and blind fear?
4. Why does Gesela feel sympathy for the toad in the well? What do you make of her claim, "We are all cursed," and in what other places do you see that idea throughout the novella?
5. Both Gesela and Casimir are exceedingly lonely, yet convinced from the start they do not need anyone but themselves. What are the different ways they resist and succumb to each other they spend more time together? What does it take for them to open up?
6. The mirror tells Casimir that "love is learned" and that his curse is meant to teach him a lesson. By the end of the novella, do you think he has learned the lesson, or is there still more work to do as he and Gesela's relationship grows? What is the difference between needing Gesela's love and wanting it?
7. What is the significance of truths and lies in this fairy tale world? How do Gesela, the selkie, and the Glass Mountains deceive each other during their negotiations? How might they have helped each other instead?
8. Gesela grapples with wanting to hate Casimir but being unable to. How does their story explore the line between love and hate, and how thin do you think that line really is?
9. Both Casimir and Flynn are princes who have complex relationships with power. What do they each seek power over, and are their goals selfish or selfless? How does Flynn parody the archetypal "Prince Charming" often seen in fairy tales?
10. The story instructs, "True names are for lovers. True names are for death." How might the author continue to explore and develop this concept with the six other elven princes' stories? Considering Casimir's true name, what sort of names might you expect his brothers to have?