



SCARLETT St. CLAIRE

SECRETS. SEDUCTION. SACRIFICE.

QUEEN OF MYTH AND MONSTERS

1. Throughout the novel, Isolde goes through transformations both internal and external. How do these transformations shape the decisions she makes and her perspective of the people she rules?
2. Isolde is dedicated to freeing her mother's enslaved people, even when other characters question how she can feel such a connection to those who do not know her and whom she has never met. Why do you think this connection is so strong, and what does it say about identity that is passed down through generations? Do you feel a connection to the identities of your parents, grandparents, and beyond?
3. Do you believe any of the characters are completely morally correct, or do they all exist in gray areas? Which characters are easier or harder to forgive for their actions, and why?
4. The lore of Cordova's monsters is heavily influenced by mythology from Romania, Slovenia, Germany, and Russia. Did you see any mythological ideas you recognized? What did these real-world stories bring into this fantasy world, and did they heighten your understanding of it?
5. Isolde learns much about the oppression and persecution of witches by King Dragos and his men—all because Dragos believed High Coven was too powerful. How does this compare or relate to ongoing women's rights struggles in our world? Do you believe men fear women's power, and that is why they seek to take it away?
6. How do the different characters interact with magic and supernatural abilities? For which characters are their abilities (or lack thereof) very significant to their journey?
7. Do you believe Isolde will conquer all of Cordova, based on the trends in the narrative so far? Does she deserve to? Why or why not?
8. Adrian's point of view is used to give insight into his thoughts and actions, but it is used sparingly. Considering the mysteries that surround him and his past, do you believe Adrian is a reliable narrator? Why might the author have chosen not to let us into his head too often?
9. What is the significance of Isolde deciding "Perhaps I was foolish to keep fighting for others and should only fight for myself," and how does it reflect her growth as a character? Do you agree with her choice, and her rejection of the "greater good"?
10. Adrian and Isolde never shy away from talking through the issues in their relationship and their politics, even if this leads to fights. Do you find their arguments to be a healthy part of their growing relationship, or something they need to work on as they move forward? How do you think they could better listen and "hear" each other?



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11. What do you make of Solaris and the way the townspeople reacted to him? Do you think he still poses a threat to Adrian's rule by the end of this book? Why or why not?
12. What does it mean that "Words are spells," and how does Isolde use them as such? How does this idea apply to non-magical situations, both in Isolde's world and our own?
13. Dis and Asha are the primary goddesses worshipped in Cordova. Do you think either of them deserves their people's devotion after what they have done? What critique might the portrayal of their followers offer about blind faith?