



PERILOUS TIMES

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A READING GROUP GUIDE



1. *Perilous Times* is a novel that plays with Arthurian traditions. In what ways did the novel reimagine the characters of the Arthurian legend? In what ways did it keep them the same?
2. Which of the legendary Arthurian characters were you familiar with before reading and which were new to you?
3. Who was your favorite character in the book and why? Who was your least favorite and why?
4. Strong female characters like Mariam and Morgan Le Fay play major roles in the events of the novel. How have gender roles changed over time? Do you think the women of the original King Arthur legend had the same agency as women today? Why or why not?
5. Throughout the novel, Kay and Lancelot grow weary of their immortality and how often Britain finds itself in peril. What does this say about the nature of history and of humankind?
6. Each character has a different perspective on the state of the world and the state of humanity, and what, if anything, can be done about it. Which character's viewpoint did you most relate to and why?
7. In addition to bringing Arthurian characters into a modern age, *Perilous Times* confronts issues that face humanity today. What did you think of the way the author used ancient myths to shed new light on contemporary problems?
8. *Perilous Times* challenges traditional ideas about heroes—not only the Hero Myth itself but the idea that people should wait for a hero to save them, instead of saving themselves. What did you think of Mariam's journey in the novel and her growing awareness, especially when it comes to her understanding of heroes?
9. While the novel explores a number of serious topics, it does so while being pure fun. What did you think of the author's wit and humor in *Perilous Times*? How does his writing style lift the novel? What were your favorite funny moments?
10. Are you a fan of retellings of classic stories? What draws you to them? Do the retellings make you rethink the original story? Why or why not?