



BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

Mystical Thriller |
Historical Romance

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, there is a wooden chair with a curved back and a small wooden table. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The room is lit with soft, warm light, and the overall style is artistic and inviting.

THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING THE FRENCH
QUEEN'S CURSE FOR YOUR
NEXT BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

JULIETTE LAUBER

A riveting historical fiction novel that weaves a tale of intrigue, power, and the supernatural. Set against the backdrop of 16th-century France, the story follows the life of Marguerite de Valois, known as Queen Margot, who is entangled in a web of political machinations and a secret battle for the matriarchy. The narrative spans from the wintry forests outside Paris to the modern-day struggles of Kikki Trieste, a woman whose fate is mysteriously linked to Queen Margot's legacy. As Kikki grapples with visions of the past and the looming threat of a dangerous gala at the Louvre, the novel explores themes of love, betrayal, and the enduring power of the Goddess. With rich historical detail and a compelling blend of past and present, "The French Queen's Curse" promises to captivate readers with its blend of history, mysticism, and suspense.

WORD COUNT: 143,747

PAGE COUNT: 494

KEY WORDS: Mystical Thriller | Time Travel | French Court | Urban Gothic

DEMOGRAPHICS: Historical Fiction Enthusiasts

COMP BOOKS: La Reine Margot by Alexandre Dumas | The Mists of Avalon by Marion

Zimmer Bradley | Outlander by Diana Gabaldon

ISBN: 978-1-64456-464-6 [HARDCOVER]

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Royal Intrigue

Ingredients:

- 1 oz Chambord (black raspberry liqueur)
- 1 oz Cognac
- 1/2 oz St-Germain (elderflower liqueur)
- 2 oz Cranberry juice
- A splash of Champagne
- Garnish: Edible gold flakes and a single red rose petal

Preparation:

- In a shaker filled with ice, combine Chambord, Cognac, St-Germain, and cranberry juice.
- Shake well and strain into a chilled martini glass.
- Top with a splash of Champagne for a regal fizz.
- Garnish with a sprinkle of edible gold flakes to represent the opulence of the French court and a single red rose petal, symbolizing the beauty and tragedy of Queen Margot.

This cocktail, Royal Intrigue, captures the essence of the novel's setting in the French court with its rich flavors and luxurious presentation. Enjoy this drink while delving into the mysterious and dramatic world of *The French Queen's Curse*.

SIGNATURE DRINK

- ▶ Renaissance Reverie by Skyward Serenade
- ▶ Missa Regia Gloria by Patrick Lenk
- ▶ Royal Intrigue
- ▶ Moonlit Masquerade by Grailknights
- ▶ Garden of Versailles NEYLA
- ▶ Sorceress by Opeth
- ▶ Our Eerie Past by Medieval Minstrels
- ▶ Parisian Waltz by Tatiana Stachak
- ▶ Chamber of Secrets by John Williams
- ▶ Lament for the Queen by Jill Tracy
- ▶ Valois by AURAL
- ▶ Forbidden Love by Madonna
- ▶ The Solitary Serenade of the Seine by Hay Bale Whispers



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, a wooden chair with a curved back sits on a light-colored, patterned rug. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The background features a large window with light streaming in, and a small potted plant sits on a table behind the chair. The overall style is soft and artistic.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THE BOOK IN
THIS DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- **Marguerite's Dilemma:** How does Marguerite de Valois' internal conflict between her royal duties and personal beliefs shape her character in the novel?
- **Historical Accuracy:** In what ways does the author blend historical facts with fiction to create a compelling narrative?
- **Matriarchal Themes:** Discuss the significance of matriarchal origins and their impact on the characters and plot development.
- **Kikki's Journey:** How does Kikki's role as a High Priestess influence her decisions and relationships throughout the story?
- **Patriarchy vs. Matriarchy:** What are the main contrasts between patriarchal and matriarchal societies depicted in the book, and how do they drive the story forward?
- **Supernatural Elements:** Analyze the use of supernatural elements and goddess worship in the novel. How do they contribute to the overall theme?
- **Character Development:** Examine the growth of key characters like Kikki, Torres, and Queen Margot. What pivotal moments lead to their evolution?
- **Symbolism of the Snake Goddess:** What does the Snake Goddess symbolize, and how does her presence affect the narrative?
- **Love and Power:** Explore the relationship dynamics between characters, particularly the balance of love and power. How do these relationships reflect the broader themes of the novel?
- **Modern vs. Historical:** How does the author draw parallels between the modern-day setting and historical events? Discuss the relevance of these connections to contemporary issues.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Character Role-Play: Members can choose a character from the book and act out scenes or monologues, bringing the historical figures to life.

Historical Debate: Host a debate on the real-life events depicted in the novel, such as the Saint-Bartholomew's Day Massacre, and discuss their impact on modern society.

Goddess Gathering: Since the book references ancient goddesses, organize a themed meeting where members can learn about and discuss the significance of goddesses in history.

Creative Writing: Encourage members to write a short story or poem from the perspective of Marguerite de Valois or another character, exploring their emotions and untold stories.

GROUP ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Creating a period piece meal inspired by the content of this document, which delves into the life and times of Marguerite de Valois and the 16th century French court, could be a delightful way to enhance your book club discussion. Here's a suggestion for a themed meal:

French Renaissance Fare: Prepare dishes that reflect the opulence of the French Renaissance. Consider recipes like coq au vin, beef bourguignon, or ratatouille to capture the essence of French cuisine during Marguerite de Valois' era.

Royal Desserts: Indulge in desserts fit for a queen, such as tarte Tatin, clafoutis, or crème brûlée, which, while not from the exact time period, evoke the richness of French desserts.

Wine Selection: Choose wines from regions that were prominent during the 16th century, like Bordeaux or Burgundy, to give a taste of the royal court's preferred beverages.

Herbal Infusions: Serve herbal teas or infusions that highlight the use of herbs and spices during the Renaissance, such as lavender, mint, or chamomile.

Remember to consider the setting and presentation to truly transport your book club members to the time of Marguerite de Valois. Enjoy your meal and discussion!

GROUP ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS



Juliette Lauber, novelist and international entertainment lawyer, is the author of the historical romance and mystical thriller trilogy, *The Kikki Trieste Trilogy*. Her latest book set in Paris in 1572 and 2015, is *The French Queen's Curse*.

She has lived in Paris for many years where she enjoys exploring the City of Light on her bike and pursues her love of history, art, champagne and chocolate. To keep her muse happy, she seeks sanctuary on the mystical Greek island of Santorini, where she enjoys the crystalline light and long swims in the silky azure Aegean.

Juliette's interests have always been rich and diverse, blending a long successful international legal career that led her to become European General Counsel for Time Warner/Warner Bros. in Paris and London with her many passions—flamenco, prehistoric matriarchal societies, Greek mythology, the Tarot, mystical and metaphysical traditions.

Her novels featuring her alter ego, Kikki Trieste, draw upon her passions when Kikki is called upon to save precious artefacts representing the Mother Goddess from powerful enemies seeking to destroy the world's oldest treasures —the *Minoan Snake Goddess*, *The Wall Paintings of Ancient Thera*, a *Bronze Age Godshead*.

Born in Tucson, she has also called New York, London, Madrid, Santorini, Santa Fe and numerous other ports her home. She is fluent in French and Spanish, conversational Greek and some Italian.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: www.juliettelauber.com

PURCHASING OPTIONS:

- ◆ AMAZON
- ◆ BARNES & NOBLE
- ◆ KOBO
- ◆ APPLE iBOOKS