



READING GROUP GUIDE

- 1.** The story is set at the turn of the twentieth century, with references to social, technological, political, and even agricultural changes on the horizon. What is significant about this time period and the “everytown” setting of the story?
- 2.** The epigraphs including both fairy lore and academic writing that begin each chapter play out a drama of their own—belief in traditional magic warring with “modern” logic. Likewise, Ida Carrington investigates and researches fairy lore, but doesn’t believe in it herself, while Aunt Imogene is dismissive of academia. How do these two worldviews coexist? What does this tension explore?
- 3.** Several times in the text, one or both of the sisters encounters the realization that cultures outside their own also practice fairy bargaining, and are surprised (or even uncomfortable). Why include these insights (and occasional discomfort)?
- 4.** The Fae of this story aren’t exactly good, but they aren’t evil, either. How do the pressures of their world—their side of the veil—explain their particular morality, their actions and power structures? And what do you think happens in Fae in the decades that follow the conclusion of this story?
- 5.** Family, particularly intergenerational family, plays a major role in the story and in the character’s identities. How is family both a positive and a traumatic force for the main characters? Where do you think the sources of this family trauma are, and do they resolve by the end of the story?
- 6.** The story adopts and adapts various elements of traditional Western fairy lore—like fairy rings, trickster fairies, aversion to iron—and ignores or reimagines others. What fairy story or piece of fairy lore do you wish the story had included? How would you fold it into the world of Prospect Hill?