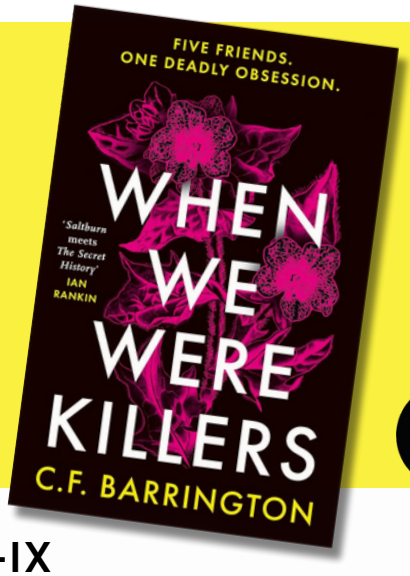
NOVELLIC

BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Take the hassle out of managing your book club with this reading and prompt guide. We have conveniently divided the book into digestible sprints of around 50 pages, with a set of questions and conversation starters for each section.

We recommend a reading plan of 2 days for each sprint but feel free to modify the schedule according to your group's reading pace.



PROLOGUE

- Discuss the initial sense of guilt and tragedy - what do you think happened at the cliff?
- The prologue hints at deep regret. Did you guess who "she" was by the end of this section?

CHAPTERS I-IX

- What do you think Madri meant by "he's just what we're looking for"? Foreshadowing or manipulation?
- Were you surprised by Finn's choice to study Divinity, considering his past?
- Did you sense something off about the group Madri is with during the fire scene at the castle?
- When Finn overhears the argument and sees the girl collapse, what did you think had just happened?

CHAPTERS X-XV

- What do you think the group was really doing at the castle that night — just a ritual, or something more?
- Did you anticipate Hope's arrival and the role she would play in the story?
- The group's rituals and references to Norse mythology begin to escalate. Did you expect this direction?
- What do you make of the quiet tension between Magnus and Finn? Foreshadowing something bigger?
- Did you catch on to the pattern of rituals aligning with ancient calendar events?

CHAPTER XVI – CHAPTER XXI

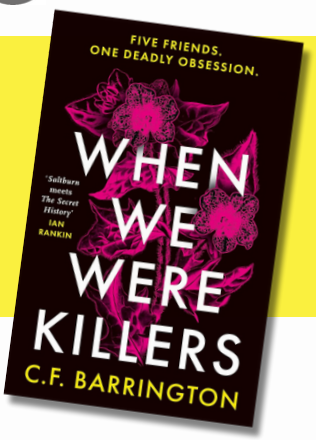
- What did you think of Finn's increasing involvement in the group? Is he being initiated or manipulated?
- Were you surprised by the secrecy surrounding Magnus's past? What do you think he's hiding?
- What's your take on the blend of spiritualism, paganism, and academic study happening in the group?
- Did you anticipate that the rituals would become physically or psychologically dangerous?

CHAPTER XXII – CHAPTER XXVI

- What did you make of the group's deepening commitment to the Clan? Did you think it was becoming cult-like?
- What is your theory about what really happened during the ritual that left the girl unconscious earlier?
- Do you think Madri and Magnus are being honest about the purpose of the rituals?
- Did you guess that the group had an internal hierarchy and secret roles?
- What plot developments surprised you the most in these chapters?

NOVELLIC

'SALTBURN MEETS THE SECRET HISTORY IN THIS GRIPPING TALE OF ALCHEMY AND ACADEMIA' **IAN RANKIN**



CHAPTER XXVII – CHAPTER XXXIII

- Did you expect the group to actually travel to Finlaggan? What did that shift in location signal to you?
- How did the initiation ceremony affect your understanding of the group's seriousness?
- Were you surprised by how much Finn buys into the ritual and its meaning?
- Do you think the group crossed a line during their time on the island? If so, where?
- Did you guess the truth about Hope's past before it was revealed?

CHAPTER XXXIV – CHAPTER XL

- What was your reaction to the ritual that went wrong? Did you see that twist coming?
- How do you interpret the group's reaction to the incident? Were you surprised by their choices?
- What do you think is motivating Finn at this point: loyalty, love, fear, or something else?
- When the group starts talking about sacrifice and secrecy, what did you think they meant?
- Did you guess who might become the scapegoat or the target of blame?
- What part of this section shocked or unsettled you the most?

CHAPTER XLI – CHAPTER XLVIII

- Were you surprised at who ends up dead? Did you think it was going to be someone else?
- Who did you suspect first when the incident occurred? Why?
- What do you think was actually planned vs. what was spontaneous?
- Did you expect Finn to go along with it, or did his actions surprise you?
- What's your theory on who's still keeping secrets, even now?

CHAPTER XLIX – END

- Were you satisfied with the explanation of what happened the night of the incident?
- Did you guess the final twist or did it catch you off guard?
- Who, in your opinion, bears the most guilt?
- Do you believe Finn found closure by the end? Why or why not?
- Looking back, were there any clues you missed that now seem obvious?

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

Don't forget to leave your thoughts and comments on your Novellic book club, and subscribe to our newsletter for more book club guides and reading tips.