



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

START THE CONVERSATION

1. Women's ambition often faces negative responses and significant challenges in both the 1930s and 1970s, in which the novel is set. Do you think the experiences faced by the female characters in *The Stolen Queen* reflect universal struggles women are still experiencing today?
2. Charlotte's research on Hathorkare and the debate over her erasure from history is a major focus of the novel. Why do you think it's so important for Charlotte to reclaim Hathorkare's contributions to history?
3. Annie has always taken care of her mother, Joyce. How does their relationship shape Annie's choices throughout the novel?
4. Why do you think Annie and Charlotte get along so well? What is it about their personalities and life experiences that make them such a good team?
5. Charlotte hides her past traumas from everyone, including Mark. Do you think her secrecy was a justifiable means of protecting herself, or did it prevent her from healing and moving forward?
6. Charlotte believes she's been cursed by Hathorkare after removing her broad collar from the tomb. There is a lot of speculation and skepticism on ancient Egyptian curses, such as the Pharaoh's curse. Where do you land on the spectrum?
7. Charlotte grapples with the choice between repatriation and institutionalization of ancient artifacts throughout the novel. By the end, she may have even changed her opinion. What are your thoughts on who should "keep" ancient artifacts—particularly in cases like the Met vs. the Egyptian Museum of Cairo within the novel?
8. We see Charlotte exploring the Valley of the Kings, as well as managing the careful moving and conservation efforts for the ancient pieces. In what ways, if any, did this book expand your understanding of museum and conservation work?
9. There were subtle clues throughout the story regarding the fate of Henry and Layla. Were you able to pick up on these clues, or were you completely surprised by the revelation?
10. Did you enjoy the ending of the novel? Are you happy with where the characters ended up? Explain why you feel this way.