



## HARBOR FOR THE NIGHTINGALE READERS' GUIDE

If you were sent away to live at Stranje House, what would be the reason for your 'exile'?

Which character in *Harbor for the Nightingale* do you identify with the most and why?

The opening chapter of *Harbor for the Nightingale*, the ballroom scene, overlaps with the ending chapters of the previous book, *Refuge for Masterminds*. However, the two are written from a different point of view (POV). What differences did you notice between Lady Jane's point of view and Maya's? If you could read *Harbor for the Nightingale* from a different character's POV, which character would you choose?

What is your favorite scene from this book and why? What is your favorite scene from the entire Stranje House series thus far?

Miss Maya Barrington observes the world around her from a unique perspective. How are her sensory tools for navigating the world different than yours? How are yours similar?

In what ways does Maya's culture of origin influence the way she perceives English society? How does your background influence the way you see your resident society?

Several characters (including Napoleon, Prince George, and the Patronesses of Almack's) are real historical figures. Are there any fictional characters or elements from this series that you wish were a factual part of history?

Maya fights to control (and often conceal) her true emotions. How does this characteristic affect her relationship with her friends and Lord Kinsworth?

In chapter nine, Maya imagines a conversation between Lord Kinsworth, Lord Harston, and the Patronesses of Almack's about the false engagement. How do her inner thoughts influence her perception of Lord Kinsworth? Does your mind ever entertain imaginary conversations?

Who do you think is Maya's most influential role model; her grandmother, Miss Emma Stranje, Lady De Lieven, Lord Kinsworth, Sera, or someone else? And why?

The book is written from Maya's perspective, and yet the author was able to show the other characters' emotions. Did you notice some of the techniques she used to do that?

Maya is estranged from her British family, but in your opinion, how does her reserved father, Lord Barrington, show love to Maya?

Lord Kinsworth expresses a desire for freedom and adventure, so at what point in the novel do you feel that he decides to fully commit to Maya?

Of the four men thus far, Lord Wyatt, Lord Ravencross, Mr. Sinclair, or Lord Kinsworth, who is your favorite hero and why? Which of the kissing scenes did you like best?

Do you agree with Maya's and Tess's decision to save Lady Daneska? Has she redeemed herself as a character, or is she still a villainess?

Maya frequently refers to herself as either a lion, or a nightingale, and her *ayah* called her a marigold (*gende ka phool*—the sun/lion flower.) Which of these comparisons do you feel suits her best?

The title, *Harbor for the Nightingale*, suggests a theme in the novel. For example, Maya tells Lord Kinsworth, "It will not work with me, my lord. A caged nightingale cannot live. *It may sing for a time, but in the end, the wild bird will bash itself against the bars until it dies.*" How do you see this theme playing out in the novel?

At the end of the novel, what conflicts or threats still remain?

The next book, *Sanctuary for Seers*, will be written from Miss Sera Wyndham's perspective. Is there another character at Stranje House whose perspective you would like to read?



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