

BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR BOOK CLUBS

The Maid of Sherwood Forest

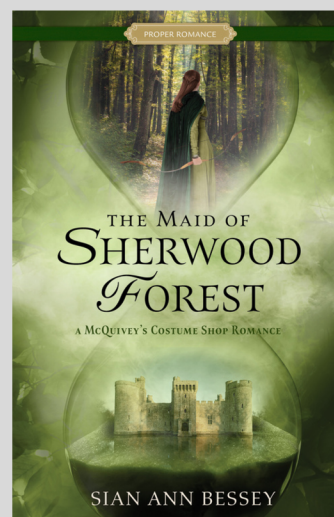
SIAN ANN BESSEY

1. The Maid of Sherwood Forest takes place in both modern-day London and medieval Nottingham. How does the author contrast these two time periods?
2. Mariah has to rely on her resourcefulness to adapt to life in an unfamiliar time. What are some ways she uses her ingenuity to survive? Were there any moments when you felt her actions were too risky or out of character?
3. What does “home” mean to Mariah, and how does her concept of it evolve as the novel progresses?
4. Trust and betrayal are recurring themes in the book. How do betrayal and loyalty play out in the story? Discuss moments when characters had to make difficult choices about whom to trust, and how those decisions affected the plot.
5. How does the author balance the historical aspects of the Robin Hood legend with the fictional addition of Mariah and her time travel? Did the historical elements feel well-researched and well-integrated?
6. Love is a central theme in the book. How does Mariah and Robin’s relationship highlight the importance of sacrifice in relationships? Are there moments where one character must give up something important for the other?
7. If you were suddenly transported to a completely different time and place, what skills or knowledge do you think would help you survive? How would you adapt to a world drastically different from your own?

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8. Robin Hood and his band of outlaws are key figures in the book. How does this portrayal differ from other versions of the tale you may know? What does the author do to make these familiar characters feel fresh and compelling?
9. Archery is an important skill in the story. How do Mariah's abilities with a bow affect the plot? In what ways does her proficiency impact her relationship with Robin Hood and his men?
10. Mariah's modern values often clash with the medieval norms around her. How do concepts like justice, punishment, forgiveness, and inclusion differ between the two time periods? How do these differences influence Mariah's decisions?
11. Which secondary character did you find most compelling, and why? How important are they to the story as a whole?
12. What do you think Mariah most needed to learn through her time-travel experience? How did she learn it? In what ways is she a stronger character at the end of the book than she was at the beginning?