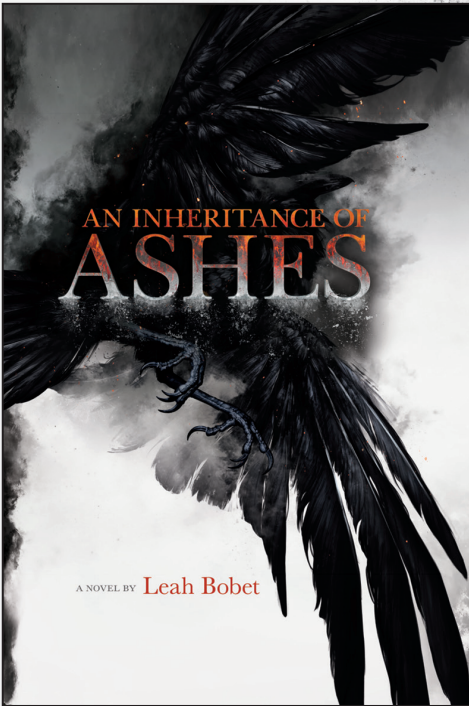


A NOVEL BY **Leah Bobet**



# AN INHERITANCE OF ASHES

## *An Inheritance of Ashes* DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1** Imagine that you had to run a family farm for a year. Who would you ask to help you run it, and how would you ask them to help?
- 2** Hallie and Marthe haven't gotten along since Marthe's husband, Thom, went off to war. Why do you think they're fighting so much? Why do you think how both Marthe and Hallie handle their emotions helps them work together—and how does it not help at all? What would you do if you were fighting with someone you loved, and didn't want to fight?
- 3** Hallie takes Heron on as a hired man partially because he tells her he thinks she is kind—something she doesn't see in herself, and desperately wants to be. What does kindness mean to you? Who do you think decides what kindness means? Do you think someone can grow into being kind?
- 4** Tyler stubbornly pushes himself to work harder despite his war injuries because he fears that his family will treat him like a child if they know how much his leg hurts, or think he's crazy if they know he can see into the Wicked God's world. How do you think fears around how we treat physical disability or mental illness affect the people who live with it? How would you find a better way to approach a friend who lives with a mental illness or disability?
- 5** The families of *An Inheritance of Ashes* each have different shapes, from the Blakelys, where married Uncles James and Cal are part of the household, to the Pricketts, where Darnell, Johan, and Fatima all live and raise their children together, to the Chandlers, who take in anyone who wants to live with them and take their name. What does family mean to you? Where do you think the line is between friends and family?
- 6** Hallie, Heron, Nat, and Tyler tell a lot of lies to people they love throughout *An Inheritance of Ashes* in the name of protecting those people, and there are consequences when they're discovered. Do you think there's such thing as a good lie? In what situation would you lie? In what situation would you consider it acceptable for someone to lie to you?

- 7 When Hallie decides to open the hole in the world to rescue Thom, she puts everyone she knows in danger. Is there ever a time when sacrificing many people's safety for one person's sake is a good or moral decision? If you were in Hallie's place, what would you do?"
- 8 Nat Blakely and Hallie are best friends, but when Hallie rips open the hole in the world she violates Nat's trust and damages their friendship. What does being a good friend mean to you? What would make you break off your most important friendship?
- 9 Mayor Pitts has a very incomplete idea of who Hallie and Marthe are: girls who have suffered a bad parent and need to be handled and saved. Because of that, the help Mayor Pitts offers doesn't count to Hallie and Marthe as help at all, but causes obstacles for them. How do you think the ideas we have and assumptions we make about other people affect what we think they want? How would you try to step outside your own perspective and see someone else in a different light?
- 10 Most of the characters in *An Inheritance of Ashes* are facing their fear of failing themselves, or failing the people they love. Why do you think so many of us consider failure to be such a terrible thing? If failing was not a terrible thing, what might you do differently in your own life?

Also by  
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