

READING GROUP GUIDE

Warning: this guide contains significant spoilers for *Turn Off the Light*.

Turn Off the Light opens with Edith's assertion that "The apple is an omen." After finishing the book, would you say that the apple was a good or bad omen for Edith? Is she better or worse off at the end of our tale than she was at the beginning?

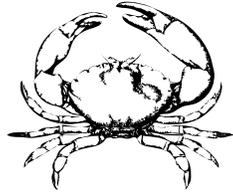
Edith worries she has somehow invited the devil into her home. How does guilt shape her subsequent choices? Discuss how self-blame affects Edith and then Claire, who also carries her own secret guilt. How does guilt tie to the hauntings of the novel? What would you call Edith's "Devil"?

Though Edith and Claire live centuries apart, they inhabit the same spaces. How does the concept of home function throughout the novel? Female relationships are at the heart *Turn Off the Light*, and many of the relationships we see are complicated. Which relationships were most compelling to you and why?

Discuss the hauntings in the house, both in 1630 and the present-day. How does one timeline affect the other? Why are Claire and Edith experiencing similar things? Why do you think these two women are connected across time?

MORE QUESTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE





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Jacque Walters hoped to change the way that readers think about hauntings. What are some ways the novel subverts traditional representations of ghosts and haunted houses?

Claire and Tilly are two sisters who respond very differently to the disappearance of Gabby, and to their father's circumstances. Did you relate more to one woman than the other? How do their differences allow the haunting in the house to escalate?

Tilly becomes determined to master her father's chili recipe, despite his inability to share it with her. Is there a tradition or a recipe in your own family you hope to continue or to pass along? Has sharing something like this within your own family or community helped you during a difficult time?

Claire and Edith are both betrayed by men they initially trusted. Given that the novel features supernatural elements, why might the author have chosen to make mortal men the true villains?

From crabs to kitchen switches to carvings, basements, and more, there are many spine-tingling sequences in the novel. Which surprised you most? What did you find most scary by the end of the read?