



The Midnight Witch

Paula Brackston

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READING GROUP GUIDE

About the book:

Midnight is the most bewitching hour of them all...

From Paula Brackston, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Witch's Daughter* and *The Winter Witch*, comes a magical tale that is as dark as it is enchanting. Set in high society Edwardian England, *The Midnight Witch* is the story of a young witch who faces the choice between love and loyalty to her coven...

"The dead are seldom silent. All that is required for them to be heard is that someone be willing to listen. I have been listening to the dead all my life."

Lady Lilith Montgomery is the daughter of the sixth Duke of Radnor. She is one of the most beautiful young women in London and engaged to the city's most eligible bachelor. She is also a witch.

When her father dies, her hapless brother Freddie takes on his title. But it is Lilith, instructed in the art of necromancy, who inherits their father's role as Head Witch of the Lazarus Coven. And it is Lilith who must face the threat of the Sentinels, a powerful group of sorcerers intent on reclaiming the Elixir from the coven's guardianship for their own dark purposes. Lilith knows the Lazarus creed: secrecy and silence. To abandon either would put both the coven and all she holds dear in grave danger. She has spent her life honoring it, right down to her engagement to her childhood friend and fellow witch, Viscount Louis Harcourt.

Until the day she meets Bram, a talented artist who is neither a witch nor a member of her class. With him, she must not be secret and silent. Despite her loyalty to the coven and duty to her family, Lilith cannot keep her life as a witch hidden from the man she loves. To tell him will risk everything.



From the Author

When writing *The Midnight Witch* I found myself in quite a dark and unsettling place, and I think the finished book reflects this. It is my dearest wish that readers will feel some of the same mystery and other-worldliness when they follow Lilith's story.

For me, part of the attraction of exploring the world of an ancient and powerful coven was to set it against the glamour and wealth of the upper classes in early 20th century Britain. Not only did this set the darkness in stark relief to the glitter and frivolity of the aristocratic lifestyle of the time, but I felt it was symbolic of the way human nature can be so multifaceted.

Lilith is a witch who speaks to the dead, but she lives her public life in the light and privilege of her time and class.

She is beautiful, and surrounded by beautiful things, but she is a necromancer, who must deal with death and the dead in a very particular way.

She is a daughter, sister, and friend, and loves her family, but must put them second to her coven.

She is a young woman in love, but to be the lover of a Lazarus witch is a dangerous thing indeed.

Discussion Questions

1. Who was your favourite character? Why?
2. Lilith had to make some hard choices regarding her family, her duty to the coven, and her love for Bram. Do you think she did the right thing? What might you have done differently in her situation?
3. Whose household would you rather have lived in, Lilith's or Mangan's?
4. Nicholas Stricklend was a very single-minded character. Do you think he was evil, or merely a man convinced what he was doing was right? Or both?
5. Who would you cast in the main roles of a film of *The Midnight Witch*?
6. The Lazarus Coven had a great responsibility to protect the Elixir and the Great Secret. Do you think they should have shared their knowledge of this gift to help people?
7. Lilith's life after the war was very different from the way she was brought up. In what ways do you think her life improved? How did these changes alter her relationship with Bram?



8. *The Midnight Witch* is a dark story told in a glittering setting - did you think this juxtaposition was successful, or did you expect something lighter to be set in this glamorous era and section of British society?
9. If there was to be a sequel, have you any thoughts on what you think should happen next?

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