



The Silver Witch

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READING GROUP GUIDE

About the book:

The Silver Witch is arguably a story with three main characters: Tilda, Seren, and the lake itself.

Llangors Lake is just over the hill from where I live, and it is a place that has fascinated me since I was a child. I used to ride my pony from our farmhouse up and across the top of the mountain. After half an hour or so of trotting and cantering through the heather and bracken I would come to the plateau that forms the summit of this hill and from there you can see down into the valley on the other side. And there, nestling in the lush lowland meadows, with the majestic Beacons rising up behind it, sits the lake, shaped like an enormous tadpole, fringed by wetlands at one end, pastures and small woodlands at the other. From so high up the water often looked like glass, with the sun bouncing off it and reflections sharp and bright. Some days it would be shrouded in mist, and trapped by the vapour the sounds of the water birds would reverberate around the valley. If there was snow, the lake would show up as a dark, almost sinister hole in the midst of the gleaming whiteness surrounding it.

It is certainly a place to stir the imagination, and setting my story there made writing it a very special experience for me.



Discussion Questions



- Both Tilda and Seren live solitary lives. Who do you think was better suited to that solitude, and why?
- Which era appealed to you more, the modern day one, or the tenth century? How do you think you could have coped happily with living in Seren's time?
- The lake meant different things to different people in the book. To Seren it was sacred and nurturing, to Tilda it was mysterious and challenging, to the professor it was home to his beloved birds and a memorial for his late wife. On the whole, did you find it threatening or comforting? Would you like to live close to such deep water? Tilda was terrified of even the thought of swimming in it, and yet she chose to live there. Could you understand why she might have done this?
- Seren's position in her society was a conflicted one: she was both feared and revered. Who do you think held more power, Seren, or Prince Brynach? What did you think of him?
- If you could add a new character to the story, either human or animal, what would you choose, and how might this change the way the story went?
- Tilda finds she has three new men in her life – Professor Williams, Dylan, and Lucas – at a time when she is mourning the loss of her husband, and missing her father. What did you feel about how she responded to them? How did you react to Dylan?
- If you could shapeshift, what would you turn into?
- How would you continue the story?

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