

READING GROUP GUIDE

The Bitch Posse

By *Martha O'Connor*

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THE
BITCH
POSSE

a novel
"ASTONISHING AND TRULY
REMARKABLE... IF THIS ISN'T
really Alice Sebold, Donna Tartt,
Barbara Vine writing under a
pseudonym, then Martha
O'Connor is a huge new talent
who is already about as good as
it gets." — LEE CHILD, author of
The Way

MARTHA
O'CONNOR



About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Bitch Posse* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Bitch Posse*.

About the Book

These are the confessions of *The Bitch Posse*.

Cherry, Rennie, and Amy were outcasts, rebels, and dreamers. And their friendship was so all-encompassing that some would call it dangerous. This is the story of three women—as seniors in high school and as women in their mid-thirties—who formed a bond in order to survive the pitfalls and perils of their lives. Their secrets have torn them apart, while inextricably binding them to one another. What happened to them? And can they survive their shared history, even today?

The Bitch Posse is an anthem for friendships that defy society's approval or disapproval. It's a novel of secrets, courage, sacrifice, and hope against the odds. It is both a journey back to being a girl on the verge of adulthood, and a journey forward, showing how the events of our past can unearth the best in us today.

Dare to jump in.



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About the Author

Martha O'Connor lives in Marin County, California, with her husband, the novelist Philip F. O'Connor. *The Bitch Posse* is her first novel.

Discussion Questions

- 1) On the outside, Amy, Rennie, and Cherry are quite different. What draws them together?
- 2) What does this novel have to say about friendship? Can a friendship ever really last forever and why or why not?
- 3) The subject matter of *The Bitch Posse* is often gritty and extreme. How does this affect your perceptions of the novel? To what end are these situations used and is it an effective technique?
- 4) The characters make very poor choices and are often unsympathetic. Did you ever find yourself losing patience with them? Feeling sorry for them? And despite the characters' clear flaws, was there anything in the characters that drew your admiration?
- 5) What does this book have to say about the struggle between generations (Gen X vs. Baby Boomers)?
- 6) Do you feel this book glorifies violence or dwells on it too much? Why or why not?
- 7) Do you find the ending hopeful, or depressing? Explain.
- 8) The character of Cherry has been called a Christ figure by some readers. What's your take on this analysis?
- 9) Do we ever outrun our demons? Do we ever outgrow our past? Discuss some events from your own past that you just can't seem to get over, no matter how hard you try.
- 10) This novel's often been called a "page-turner." What is it that keeps the pages turning in this novel?
- 11) Which character in this book is the most like you and why?

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