

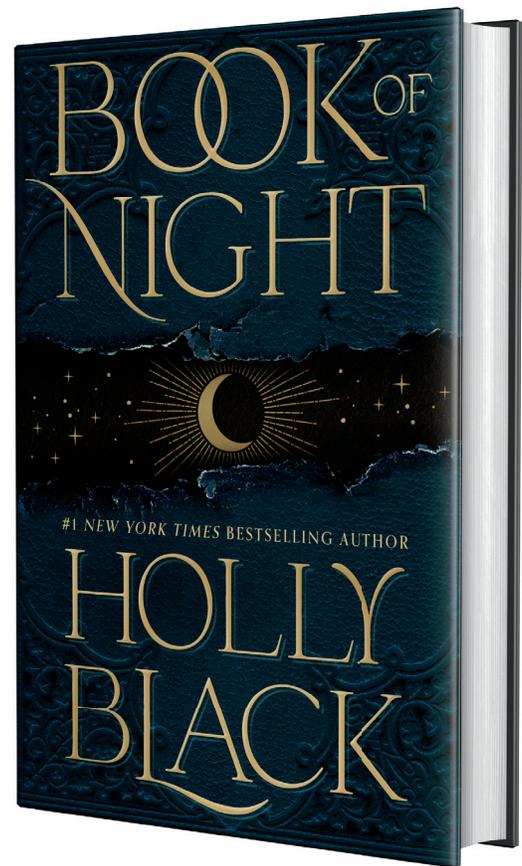
Reading Group Guide

BOOK OF NIGHT by HOLLY BLACK



Credit: Holly Black

Holly Black is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author of speculative and fantasy novels, short stories, and comics. She has sold over 26 million books worldwide, and her work has been translated into over 30 languages and adapted for film. She currently lives in New England with her husband and son in a house with a secret library. *Book of Night* is her adult fiction debut.



1. If you inhabited Charlie's world, and could have your shadowed altered to give you a minor power and look however you wanted, what would you ask for? And if you were a gloamist, which discipline would you choose?

2. From the danger of Blights to the protective properties of onyx and fire, *Book of Night* transports us to a place where security is a rare commodity (while shadows have become a hot commodity). What does *Book of Night* tell us about survival and the difference between those who make it and those that don't? Is the power of love a vulnerability or a strength?

3. How is Charlie affected by her parents' breakup? What does her mother teach her about how not to build a life? How is Rand able to use Charlie's vulnerable state to exploit her?

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4. As you watched Charlie perform a series of brilliant cons, does her gender put her at a disadvantage or has she found a way to make it an asset? And if both are true, in what ways are they true?
5. In what ways are Charlie and Posey each other's shadow (metaphorically)?
6. How did your perception of Vince shift throughout the book? What were the moments where you realized something new about him—and were they the same moments where Charlie did?
7. What were your theories about Paul Ecco's murder? How did you think he was connected to the single page from the *Liber Noctem*?
8. Charlie and Posey struggle to get by, while nearby neighborhoods are filled with opulence. How do Lionel Salt (a medical magnate) and the Cabal perpetuate poverty and ensure that hardly anyone will be able to move up in society?
9. In chapter 14, "A Swarm of Black Flies," Posey and Charlie visit Mahlar, a graduate student specializing in the ethnography of quickened shadows. Throughout their conversation about unseen energy and the effects of trauma on a shadow, what real-world questions are raised? How do the mysteries of shadows illuminate the mysteries of the mind and soul?
10. The *Liber Noctem* is of special value to gloamists, providing magical information through printed pages instead of digital media. How does the story of this tome speak to the magic of all books?
11. In the closing scene, a line from chapter one (Charlie "never met a bad decision she wasn't willing to double down on") is repeated. How did you react to the novel's final image? Does it indicate that Charlie made a bad decision or a good one?
12. What does it mean to be afraid of your own greatness, outside of the realm of fantastical? Why would anyone be afraid of their own potential for success?

Guide written by Amy Root Clements