



The Starless Sea



About the Author:

Erin Morgenstern is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Night Circus* (one of TIME Magazine's 100 Best Fantasy Books of All Time) and *The Starless Sea*

Her books have won Alex, Locus & Dragon Awards and have been published in dozens of languages. She has a degree in Theater from Smith College and lives in Massachusetts.

Inside the kit:

- (8) copies of the book
- (1) book club guide

About the Book:

(from Goodreads)

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood. Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues—a bee, a key, and a sword—that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club, and through a doorway to an ancient library hidden far below the surface of the earth.

What Zachary finds in this curious place is more than just a buried home for books and their guardians—it is a place of lost cities and seas, lovers who pass notes under doors and across time, and of stories whispered by the dead. Zachary learns of those who have sacrificed much to protect this realm, relinquishing their sight and their tongues to preserve this archive, and also of those who are intent on its destruction.

Together with Mirabel, a fierce, pink-haired protector of the place, and Dorian, a handsome, barefoot man with shifting alliances, Zachary travels the twisting tunnels, darkened stairwells, crowded ballrooms, and sweetly soaked shores of this magical world, discovering his purpose—in both the mysterious book and in his own life.

Suggested Reads:

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke

The Binding by Bridget Collins

The Memory Police by Yoko Ogawa



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1. A single book takes Zachary on an adventure. What book that you've read would you want to take you on an adventure?
2. Why does Allegra want to destroy the doors?
3. Talk about the pirate and girl metaphors? What do you think they mean?
4. The Starless Sea is made up of six books. Do you think there is a main character or narrator for each one? Or do they each have the same one?
5. How do the stories intersect in the Starless Sea?
6. How do each of the books within the book differ from each other?
7. Why didn't Zachary open the door when he was younger? Why do you think he found "Sweet Sorrows" in the library years later?
8. What do you think Katrina finds at the end of the book when she opens the door with a crown, a feather, and a heart?
9. Three of the book's most prominent symbols, in a book full of them, are a sword, a key, and a bee. What is the role each symbol plays in the book and what does each signify or represent?
10. The novel explores the idea that a single decision can alter the direction of our lives and asks the reader to consider the degree to which we are each in charge of our own stories/lives. What do you think about this idea? Do you think our lives are subject to fate or destiny or do you think we make our own destiny?