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Cut along the dashed lines and pass the cards around the table.

WARM-UP

1

If you could curl up anywhere in Kingfisher's world with a mug of something warm, would you pick a quiet library corner, a busy inn by the fire, or a spot on the road under the stars?

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WARM-UP

2

Kingfisher's narration often made readers laugh out loud. Was there a moment of banter or a wry aside that made you grin, and where were you when you read it?

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DISCUSSION

3

The scholar begins the story disillusioned with the life they built. Have you ever lost the spark for something you once loved, and what helped you find your way back (or on to something new)?

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DISCUSSION

4

An immortal warrior has carried a very long memory. How did it feel to watch someone so weathered let a new person in, and did it make you think of anyone in your life who's slow to trust but fiercely loyal once they do?

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DISCUSSION

5

Kingfisher's characters tend to show love through practical care, like meals, protection and small kindnesses, more than grand speeches. Which small gesture of care in the book stayed with you, and how do you like to show or receive care yourself?

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DISCUSSION

6

Did this book feel like returning to a familiar place after Swordheart, or like meeting the world fresh? What does it feel like to come back to a fictional world you already love?

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DEEP

7

Being bound, whether to a weapon, a duty or an old way of life, runs through this series. By the end of the book, did the characters' idea of freedom feel different from where they started, and did it move you in a hopeful way or a bittersweet one?

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DEEP

8

Thinking about the whole story, which moment made you feel the relationship truly shift from complicated to something tender? What did the book seem to say about letting yourself be cared for when you feel you don't deserve it?

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