

Practical Magic

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

WARM-UP

1

Where were you when you read most of this one, and did it make you want to light a candle, open a window, or put something on the stove?

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WARM-UP

2

Hoffman writes gardens, kitchens, and old houses with a lot of love. Which small domestic detail in the book did you want to reach into the page and touch?

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DISCUSSION

3

The aunts' house is the sort of place the neighbors avoid and the desperate come to at midnight. Was there a house like that in your childhood, and how did you feel walking past it?

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DISCUSSION

4

So much of this family's magic is really just care: tending, feeding, remembering what someone needs. What is the most quietly magical thing someone has ever done for you in a kitchen?

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DISCUSSION

5

The Owens sisters grow up being talked about before they are known. When has being the subject of other people's stories shaped how you moved through a place, and did you ever stop caring?

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DISCUSSION

6

This book keeps circling the idea that wanting something badly is its own kind of spell. What did the story stir up in you about your own old wishes, the ones you made before you knew better?

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DEEP

7

Sally and Gillian each build a very different armor around the same childhood. As you read, which sister's way of surviving felt more familiar in your own body, and was that comforting or uncomfortable to notice?

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DEEP

8

By the last stretch of the book, the family's ideas about love and protection have shifted. What did you find yourself hoping for these women, and did the book leave you feeling tended to or a little unsettled?

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