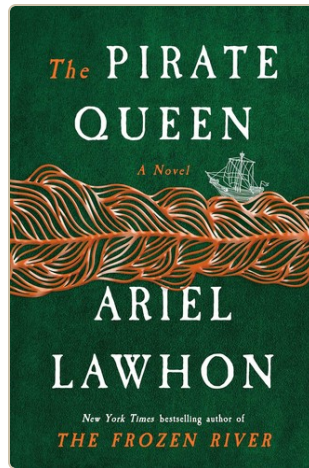


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Pirate Queen

Ariel Lawhon

🌙 COZY NIGHT

A big, blanket-worthy historical saga about Grace O'Malley, the Irish woman who led her clan's fleet and stood up for her people. It's full of salt wind, fierce loyalty and hard-won independence, so it gives you plenty to talk about by the fire.

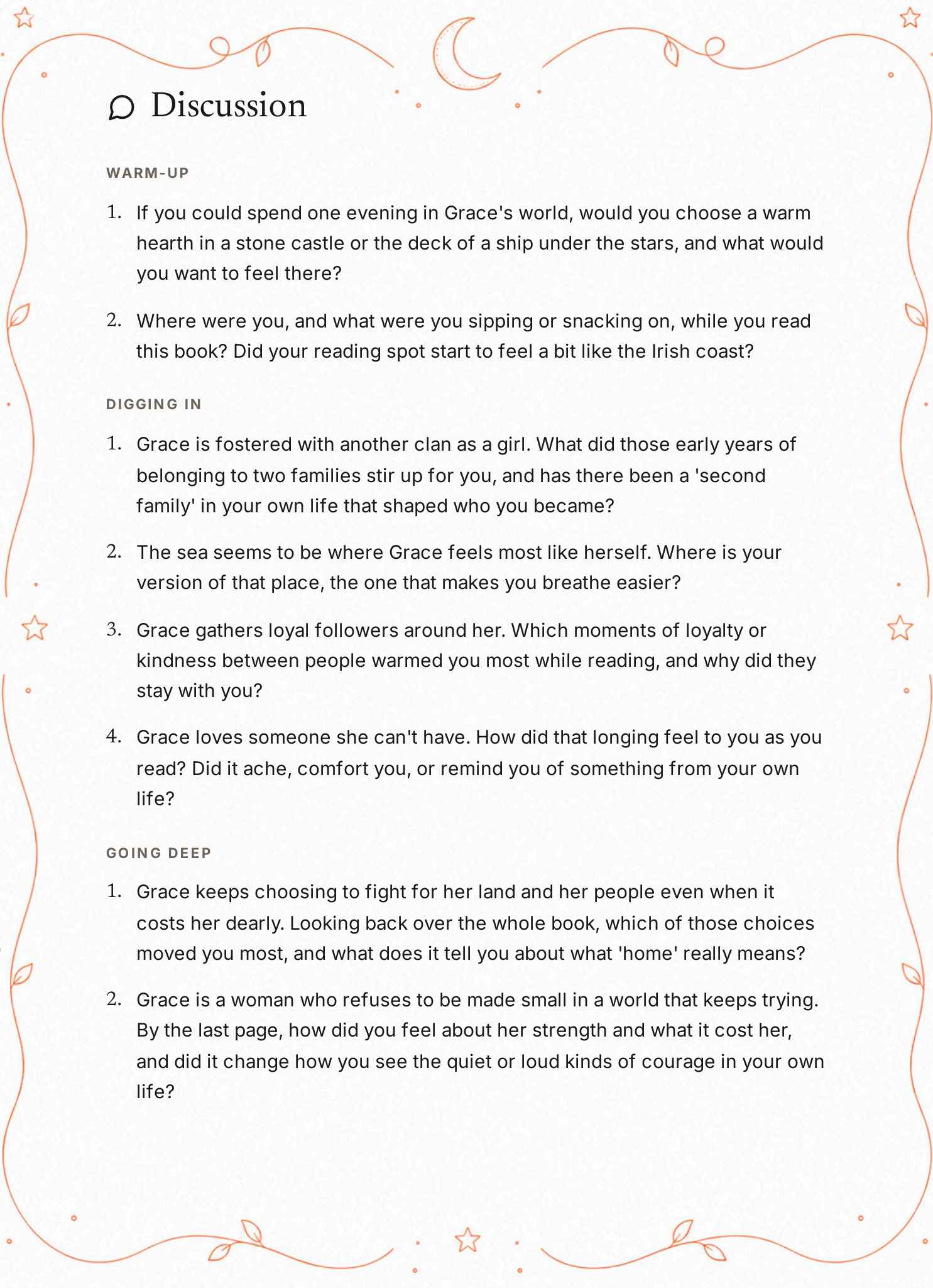
Come In From the Storm: A Pirate Queen Book Night

Bring your coziest sweater and your thoughts on Grace O'Malley. There will be stew, soda bread and warm mugs by the fire, and it's fine if you haven't finished.

Reading level: Moderate **Pages:** 528

Best for: Clubs that love a long, absorbing story and would rather trade feelings over stew than argue over plot points





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. If you could spend one evening in Grace's world, would you choose a warm hearth in a stone castle or the deck of a ship under the stars, and what would you want to feel there?
2. Where were you, and what were you sipping or snacking on, while you read this book? Did your reading spot start to feel a bit like the Irish coast?

DIGGING IN

1. Grace is fostered with another clan as a girl. What did those early years of belonging to two families stir up for you, and has there been a 'second family' in your own life that shaped who you became?
2. The sea seems to be where Grace feels most like herself. Where is your version of that place, the one that makes you breathe easier?
3. Grace gathers loyal followers around her. Which moments of loyalty or kindness between people warmed you most while reading, and why did they stay with you?
4. Grace loves someone she can't have. How did that longing feel to you as you read? Did it ache, comfort you, or remind you of something from your own life?

GOING DEEP

1. Grace keeps choosing to fight for her land and her people even when it costs her dearly. Looking back over the whole book, which of those choices moved you most, and what does it tell you about what 'home' really means?
2. Grace is a woman who refuses to be made small in a world that keeps trying. By the last page, how did you feel about her strength and what it cost her, and did it change how you see the quiet or loud kinds of courage in your own life?

On the table & to sip

TO EAT

Slow-simmered Irish beef and root vegetable stew

A pot you can start in the afternoon that tastes like a stone kitchen on the west coast of Ireland. Serve it in mugs or bowls so people can eat it curled up.

Warm brown soda bread with salted butter and honey

No yeast and no fuss. It's the everyday bread of Irish hearths, and it's lovely warm from the oven and passed around the table.

Apple and oat crumble with warm custard or cream

A little indulgent and very homey. Apples and oats nod to Irish farmhouse baking, and a crumble is hard to get wrong.

TO SIP

Hot whiskey with clove-studded lemon and honey

The classic Irish winter warmer. It's gentle, fragrant and just right for sipping slowly during a storm-at-sea conversation.

Irish coffee with softly whipped cream

A cozy after-dessert treat that pairs nicely with the crumble and keeps everyone lingering.

Spiced honey and apple 'harbor' cider (served hot) (no alcohol)

Warm apple juice simmered with cinnamon, clove and a spoon of honey. It fills the house with a comforting smell and suits everyone at the table.



Run of show

7:00

Welcome to the harbor

Greet guests with a warm mug of spiced cider or hot whiskey. Keep the lights low and put the playlist on softly.

7:15

Stew and soda bread

Serve bowls buffet-style and let people settle in wherever they're comfy. There's no need to talk about the book yet.

7:45

Warm-up by the fire

Open with the two warm-up questions. Go around the room gently, and passing is always fine.

8:05

Heart of the story

Move into the theme questions. Invite personal stories and let tangents wander a little.

8:40

Crumble and deeper waters

Bring out dessert and Irish coffee, then open the deep questions for anyone who has finished the book.

9:10

Trivia and scorecards

Play a relaxed round of trivia with no teams or pressure, fill in scorecards, and send everyone home with a bookmark.

HOST TIPS

- With 528 pages, some guests may not have finished. Stick to warm-up and theme questions until you've checked, and call out the deep questions before you start them.
- Put a small bowl of question cards on the table so quieter guests can draw one and read it aloud rather than being put on the spot.
- Make the stew and the crumble topping the day before so you can actually sit down and enjoy the evening.



♪ Playlist

Soft Celtic mist and fireside folk, with the sea somewhere just outside the window

01 Óró Sé do Bheatha 'Bhaile - Sinéad O'Connor

02 Theme from Harry's Game - Clannad

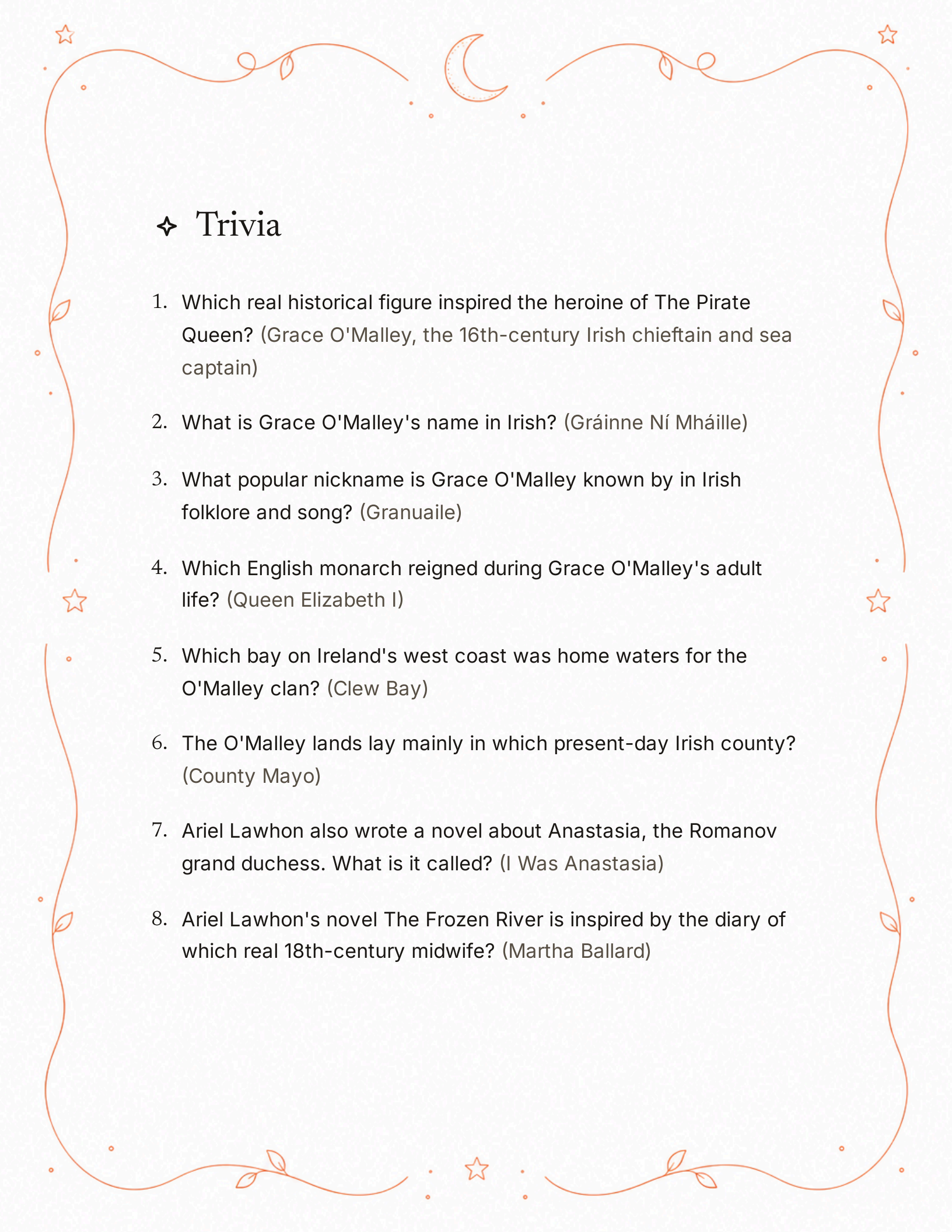
03 Orinoco Flow - Enya

04 The Old Ways - Loreena McKennitt

05 Mo Ghile Mear - Sting and The Chieftains

06 Dúlamán - Clannad

07 The Parting Glass - The High Kings

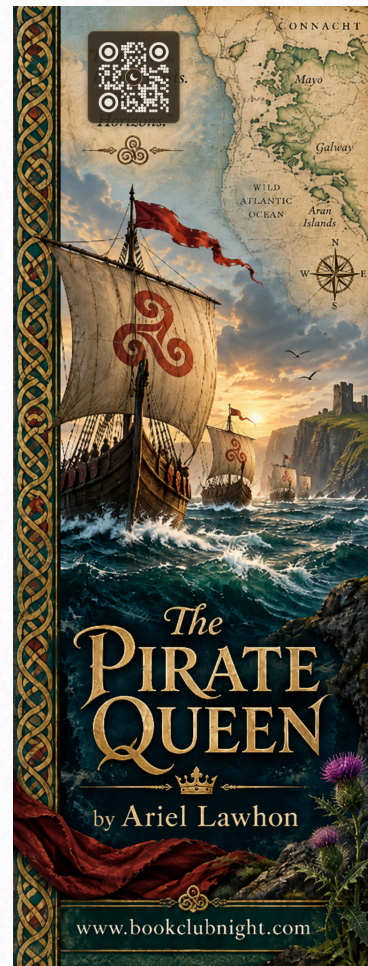


✧ Trivia

1. Which real historical figure inspired the heroine of The Pirate Queen? (Grace O'Malley, the 16th-century Irish chieftain and sea captain)
2. What is Grace O'Malley's name in Irish? (Gráinne Ní Mháille)
3. What popular nickname is Grace O'Malley known by in Irish folklore and song? (Granuaile)
4. Which English monarch reigned during Grace O'Malley's adult life? (Queen Elizabeth I)
5. Which bay on Ireland's west coast was home waters for the O'Malley clan? (Clew Bay)
6. The O'Malley lands lay mainly in which present-day Irish county? (County Mayo)
7. Ariel Lawhon also wrote a novel about Anastasia, the Romanov grand duchess. What is it called? (I Was Anastasia)
8. Ariel Lawhon's novel The Frozen River is inspired by the diary of which real 18th-century midwife? (Martha Ballard)

□ Bookmarks

Print, cut, and tuck one at every seat, a small keepsake from the night.



☆ Rate the book

Coziness of the Read ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Heart-Tug Factor ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Sense of Place ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Grace's Spirit ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Would Reread by the Fire ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

The moment that warmed my heart most: _____

If this book were a drink, it would be: _____

One word for how Grace made me feel: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

We hope the company was good and the conversation even better. Until the next chapter.



Plan your own book club night
Scan the code or visit bookclubnight.com
Book Club Night