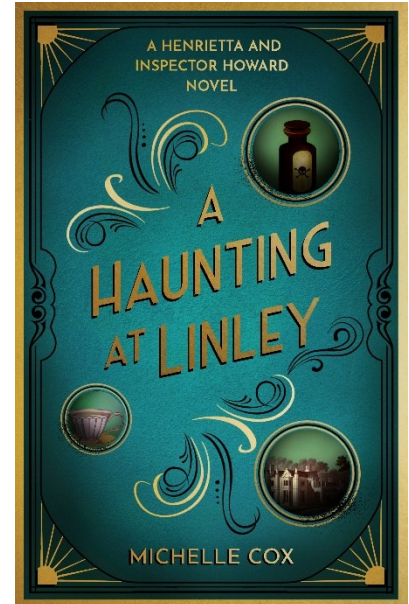


Book Club Discussion Questions for *A Haunting at Linley*

1. Henrietta takes on a more active role in solving the mysteries at Linley. How does her investigative approach compare to Clive's, and what does this reveal about her character development throughout the story?
2. Wallace is initially presented as bitter and sarcastic, seemingly uncaring about tradition or the estate. How do his ideals and actions evolve throughout the story, particularly after the revelation of his parentage and the attempts on his life?
3. The various mysterious occurrences at Castle Linley—the lipstick message, the music box, the intruder, Lady Linley's visions—are eventually explained as human actions. How does the author use these elements to create suspense and what do they ultimately reveal about the characters involved?
4. Miss Simms is revealed to be a con artist, representing a dissolved charity and attempting to manipulate Lady Linley for the estate. Discuss her motives and methods. How effective was her portrayal in masking her true intentions from the other characters and from you as a reader?
5. Elsie makes a drastic choice to elope, much to her grandfather Oldrich's dismay. Trace Elsie's journey towards independence and Oldrich's unexpected change of heart. What are the key moments that catalyze Oldrich's shift in perspective?
6. Julia endures an abusive marriage with Randolph and struggles to find a path to freedom. Discuss the societal pressures and personal fears that kept her trapped, and how she eventually finds the strength to act. What role do Glenn Forbes and Sidney Bennett play in her emancipation?
7. Inspector Yarwood is in charge of investigating Mr. Arnold's murder. How does his investigative style and conclusions contrast with Clive's (and Henrietta's) methods and deductions?
8. Servants like Mrs. Pennyworth, Stevens, Addie, and Edna play significant roles in the narrative, both in the ongoing mysteries and in revealing deeper societal issues. Discuss the class dynamics and loyalty portrayed through their characters.
9. The impending sale of Castle Linley and the revelation of Wallace's true parentage dramatically change the inheritance. Discuss how the concepts of "rightful heir" and family legacy are explored, and how different characters react to these changes.



10. Clive unexpectedly becomes Lord Linley. How does this new title and responsibility impact his personal aspirations and his relationship with Henrietta? How do they decide to manage the inherited estate, particularly in light of Wallace's previous ideas?
11. The story is set in the 1930s. How does the historical context (e.g., economic hardship, social norms, post-WWI attitudes, "death duties") influence the characters' choices, the plot, and the overall atmosphere of the novel?
12. The novel presents elements that seem supernatural (ghosts, premonitions, Lady Linley's visions, Julia's experience in the study, Amelie's story about Linley) alongside logical deductions. How do characters like Henrietta and Clive approach these phenomena, and how does the story ultimately balance belief in the supernatural with rational problem-solving?