

A TEMPEST OF TEA

HAFSAH FAIZAL



Reading Group Discussion Notes

1. Vampires play a crucial role in the plot. What do you think vampires symbolize within the story? Discuss how their treatment and the characters' attitudes towards them reflect broader societal issues.
2. The novel features strong female characters like Arthie and Flick, who defy gender norms and societal expectations. Discuss how Hafsah Faizal challenges traditional gender roles through her characters. What does this suggest about the theme of female empowerment?
3. How do you think early experiences of danger and being forced to make moral decisions shape Arthie's character throughout the novel?
4. Discuss how family loyalty and obligation influence the characters' decisions and the plot's direction. Do you think these obligations justify their actions?
5. Discuss how Hafsah Faizal portrays the theme of resistance. Is it more evident in physical acts of defiance, or does it also manifest in subtler forms of rebellion?
6. What does the relationship between Flick and her maid reveal about Flick's character, and how does it evolve? Consider the power dynamics at play and how they shift over the course of the narrative.
7. Hafsah Faizal crafts a world with rich cultural references and a backdrop of political intrigue. How does the setting contribute to the story's depth and complexity? Discuss how the author integrates cultural elements to enhance the narrative.
8. Several characters, including Lady Linden, exhibit morally ambiguous behaviour. Discuss how these characters are utilised to explore grey areas of morality and human nature. Does this ambiguity make the characters more realistic and relatable?
9. How do secrets and hidden truths drive the narrative forward? Discuss how the characters use information as a tool for manipulation or liberation.
10. Consider the author's use of prose, imagery, and multiple perspectives. How do these elements contribute to the overall impact of the story? Discuss the author's strengths as a storyteller.