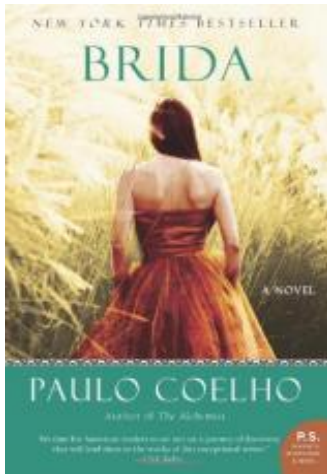


# Brida

by Paulo Coelho

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## About the Book

Brida, a young Irish girl, has long been interested in various aspects of magic but is searching for something more. Her search leads her to people of great wisdom. She meets a wise man who dwells in a forest, who teaches her to trust in the goodness of the world, and a woman who teaches her how to dance to the music of the world. As Brida seeks her destiny, she struggles to find a balance between her relationships and her desire to become a witch. **Brida** is a tale of love, passion, mystery, and spirituality from the master storyteller.

## Discussion Guide

1. What sets Brida on her quest for knowledge? Is she willed by something in particular, or is she merely inquisitive?
2. What importance does the Irish setting of the novel have? How does Brida's status as an "Irish girl" define her?
3. Paulo Coelho uses capitalization frequently in this novel, with names, with places, with feelings. What significance(s) does this stylistic choice serve?
4. The Magus is a very important and electrifying figure in this novel. What purpose does he serve? How would you describe him? What about his physical appearance?
5. Compare and contrast the figures of The Magus and Wicca. How do their roles in Brida's life echo each other and differ from one another?

6. Paulo Coelho often blends the Christian and the pagan in his work and does so especially in this novel. How do Christianity and paganism complement one another in this novel? Is Brida's quest to follow one of them specifically or to fuse them together?
7. There are a number of rituals mentioned in this book, and the cloak scene is particularly memorable. What do you think Wicca is trying to teach Brida during these ceremonies? During the initiation ritual, in particular?
8. There is a very strong female presence in the book, as well as a sense of female community and communion. What solace does Brida find in the company of women? How does The Magus's presence differ from theirs?
9. Part of the novel deals with a past life experience of Brida's. What occurs during this period of time? Why is it relevant to Brida's current existence?
10. Is the story of **Brida** an allegory? If so, who are the allegorical figures, and what do they collectively represent?

## Author Bio

Paulo Coelho is the author of many international bestsellers, including *THE ALCHEMIST*, *ELEVEN MINUTES*, *THE PILGRIMAGE* and *THE FIFTH MOUNTAIN*. He has been a member of the Academy of Letters of Brazil since 2002 and in 2007 was named a Messenger of Peace by the United Nations. In 2009, he received the Guinness World Record for Most Translated Author for the Same Book (*THE ALCHEMIST*). He lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

Paulo Coelho's books have been translated into 82 languages and have sold more than 230 million copies in more than 170 countries. His 1988 novel, *THE ALCHEMIST*, has sold more than 85 million copies and has been cited as an inspiration by people as diverse as Malala Yousafzai and Pharrell Williams.

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