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Playing the Witch Card

by KJ Dell?Antonia



About the Book

"Gilmore Girls" meets *Practical Magic* in the latest novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE CHICKEN SISTERS.

She gave up on magic. But magic didn't give up on her.

Three generations of magic. Two rogue exes. One Tarot deck.
The perfect recipe for chaos.

Flair Hardwicke knows three things: magic is real, love isn?t, and relying on either ends in disaster. So while she?s grateful for the chance to take over her grandmother?s Kansas bakery after she finally leaves her cheating husband, she won?t be embracing Nana?s fortune-telling side-hustle. Hers is a strictly no-magic operation --- until the innocent batch of Tarot card cookies Flair bakes for the town?s Halloween celebration unleashes the power of the family deck, luring Flair?s unpredictable mother to town, tempting Flair?s magic-obsessed daughter, and bringing back Flair?s first love while ensnaring her ex in a curse she can?t break.

Flair?s attempts to control the chaos only make things worse, playing right into the hands of a powerful witch. Suddenly there?s far more at stake than her status as the most reluctant witch in town, and the magic Flair has long rejected becomes the only card she has left to play.

Discussion Guide

1. This book explores themes of family and legacy. Flair is often known as ?Marie?s granddaughter? or ?Cynthia?s girl.? Which identities have you inherited from your family, and what do they mean to you?

2. If you were to take over the line of work or the daily routine your grandmother was doing at your age, what would that be and how well would you accomplish it?

3. To what extent does believing in magic affect one?s powers? Do you think Flair could summon up magic if she continued not to believe in it? How is magic a metaphor for female confidence?

4. The women in Rattleboro clearly believe magic is limited to other women. At one point, Josie suggests it?s because men don?t need magic. But in the final scenes of the book, Jude is showing signs of discovering his own powers. How do you think his having magic will affect his relationship with Flair and with Renee?

5. Magic is often pitted against stability in Flair?s mind. Did you think that these concepts were at odds at the beginning of the novel? Did your opinion change as you read further?

6. Why do you think Cynthia named her daughter ?Flair??

7. Multiple generations of mothers and daughters are shown in this novel. Compare these mother-daughter relationships: Marie and Cynthia, Cynthia and Flair, and Flair and Lucie. How do they contrast and inform one another?

8. Flair tragically underestimates Lucie at points in the novel. How might she have handled Lucie?s tarot education differently? How do you think that would have affected the outcome of the book?

9. Who did you think was the primary antagonist of this novel at first? Did your opinion change as the story progressed?

10. There are very few men of import in Rattleboro, by design. How does this change the roles of the women running the town? Can you imagine the way your town would change under such matriarchal power?

11. Have you ever had your tarot cards read? Would you? Did this story affect your answer? Do you think we each have a fate or destiny that could be ?read in the cards?? Or do we control our own stories?

12. The book?s dedication asserts that the all-important question is: ?Are you a witch or not?? Having read the book, what do you think ?being a witch? means in the context of the story? More important, are you a witch?

Author Bio

KJ Dell?Antonia is the former editor of *The New York Times*? Motherlode and the co-host of the #AmWriting Podcast. She is also the author of HOW TO BE A HAPPIER PARENT, IN HER BOOTS, PLAYING THE WITCH CARD, and the instant *New York Times* bestseller and Reese?s Book Club Pick, THE CHICKEN SISTERS. She lives with her family on a small farm in Lyme, New Hampshire, but retains an abiding love for her childhood in Texas and Kansas.

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