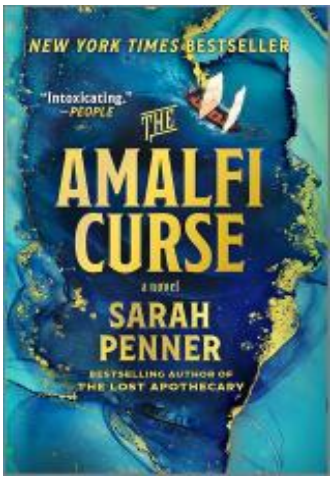
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The Amalfi Curse

by Sarah Penner



About the Book

Powerful witchcraft. A hunt for sunken treasure. Forbidden love on the high seas. Beware the Amalfi Curse.

Haven Ambrose, a trailblazing nautical archaeologist, has come to the sun-soaked village of Positano to investigate the mysterious shipwrecks along the Amalfi Coast. But Haven is hoping to find more than old artifacts beneath the azure waters; she is secretly on a quest to locate a trove of priceless gemstones her late father spotted on his final dive. Upon Haven?s arrival, strange maelstroms and misfortunes start plaguing the town. Is it nature or something more sinister at work?

As Haven searches for her father?s sunken treasure, she begins to unearth a centuries-old tale of ancient sorcery and one woman?s quest to save her lover and her village by using the legendary art of *stregheria*, a magical ability to harness the ocean. Could this magic be behind Positano?s latest calamities? Haven must unravel the Amalfi Curse before the region is destroyed forever.

Against the dazzling backdrop of the Amalfi Coast, this bewitching novel shimmers with mystery, romance, and the untamed magic of the sea.

Discussion Guide

1. Before reading THE AMALFI CURSE, had you heard of *stregheria*, the Italian word for witchcraft? Are you superstitious, and/or do you believe that certain people have inexplicable abilities that seem to transcend the laws of nature?

2. Across both the historical and present-day narratives, the characters explore the concept of *treasure* --- what it means and what it doesn?t. How does each character?s perspective reveal their values? And how do you define treasure?

3. Have you ever gone scuba diving or snorkeling? Did you discover anything interesting underwater?

4. How would you describe your relationship with the sea, or with nature more generally? What is your earliest memory of the ocean?

5. Mari faces a difficult choice when she realizes her lover, Holmes, is on the ship she intends to sink. Were you surprised when she proceeded with her plan, even though it meant dooming her lover to a watery death? What would you have done differently if you were in her position?

6. Were you surprised when you learned that Corso wrote the letter to the Mazza brothers at the beginning of the book? Who else in the story did you suspect of writing the letter?

7. Throughout the story, Haven grapples with grief over her late father and the treasure he left for her to find. How did you feel about Haven when you learned she kept this a secret from her team? Did you ever question her motives and values?

8. In Holmes? letters to Mari, he alludes to something of extraordinary value hidden away on his ship. What did you think the treasure was? Did you ever suspect it was a person?

9. Savina is arguably the story?s most complicated character. What did you think of her practicing witchcraft to protect Enzo? Do you consider her a wicked character? Would you put an entire region at risk if it meant protecting your child?

10. What were the story?s most surprising moments for you? Were you surprised when you learned that certain key characters had survived, despite the author leading you to believe otherwise?

11. Toward the end of the story, Haven returns to the archive and uses a genealogical database to locate a living descendent of the *streghe*. Have you researched any of your ancestors? Have you found anything surprising in your own genealogical research?

Author Bio

Sarah Penner is the *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of THE LOST APOTHECARY, THE LONDON SÉANCE SOCIETY and THE AMALFI CURSE. Her books have been translated into more than 40 languages, and her debut, THE LOST APOTHECARY, has sold over one million copies worldwide.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, Sarah spent 13 years in corporate finance and now writes full-time. In her free time, Sarah enjoys hiking, yoga and cooking. She also sits on the Board of Directors at her local animal shelter, Friends of Strays. Sarah and her husband, Marc, live in Florida.

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