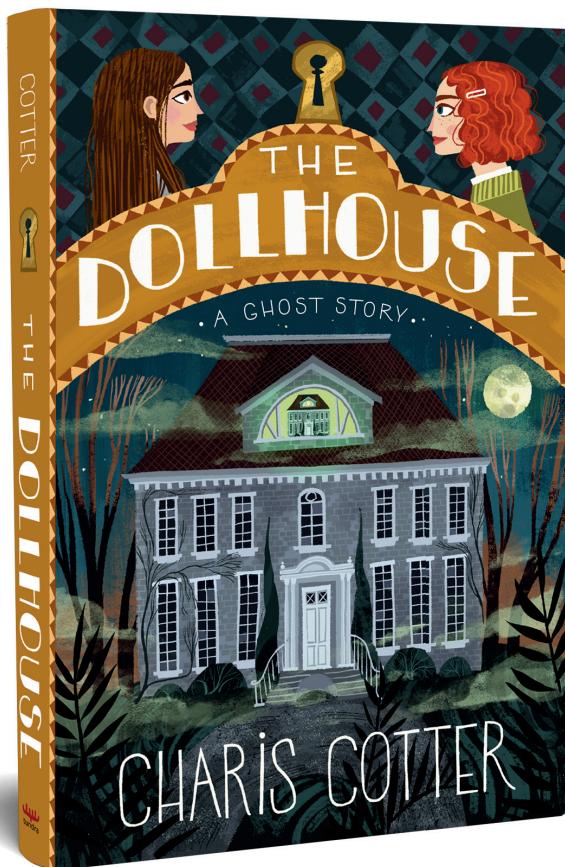


# THE DOLLHOUSE

## Book Club Discussion Guide



### About the Author

Charis Cotter grew up beside a cemetery and has been living with ghosts ever since. She studied English in university and went to drama school in London, England. She is the award-winning author of *The Swallow: A Ghost Story*, *The Painting* and *The Ghost Road*. Charis loves all the places that ghosts like to linger—old houses, cemeteries, forgotten paths and the wild Newfoundland coastline. She has worked extensively in schools and libraries from coast to coast, using drama and storytelling to bring her books to life. Her performances of Newfoundland ghost stories has thrilled audiences of all ages, from Florida to Vancouver Island. She lives at the end of a road beside the ocean, in one of the most haunted parts of Newfoundland.

1. Have you ever been in a house that you thought was haunted? What were the things that made you feel the presence of a ghost?
2. Alice is very upset about the possibility that her parents will get a divorce. Do you think she's right when she says they need to talk about it with her because it affects her just as much as it does them?
3. Have you ever met a person like Mrs. Bishop, who is grouchy and a little bit mean, but you still like them? What are the things you like about them? Do you think Alice likes Mrs. Bishop? Why?
4. Have you ever known anyone like Lily or Bubble, who has a developmental difference and seem much younger than their actual age? What makes Lily so special to Alice? And Bubble so special to Fizz?
5. Alice has a very vivid imagination, and sometimes she thinks her daydreams are true. Have you ever had a nighttime dream or a daydream that seemed so real, you're not sure if it happened or not? Describe your experience.
6. Have you ever been in an old house that makes you wonder what life was like there in the past, who lived there and what their day-to-day lives were like?
7. Have you ever wanted to go back in time? When and where would you go? Do you think you'd want to live sometime in the past? How would life be different for you if you lived in the 1920s, like Fizz and Bubble?
8. Do you find old dolls scary? Why?
9. Mrs. Bishop believed that Death was waiting for her (and Alice) in the house. Alice lit candles to fight against Death and the darkness all around her. Do you think Mrs. Bishop was right or wrong? Did Alice keep Death away by lighting all the candles in the house? Or was there something else going on? Did Alice have something to teach Mrs. Bishop about hope and faith?
10. Have you ever felt that there may be another kind of reality that lies just beyond the world you can see and touch? What do you imagine that reality might be like? A parallel universe? Heaven? A magical kingdom?

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