

# *The Coming Storm by Regina M Hansen*



## Resources for Book Clubs



*Welcome Readers!*

*I created these book club resources with the help of my daughter, and we hope that they will be helpful to both YA and grown-up book clubs and groups. They include questions, ideas for activities, and recipes from the book. Enjoy, and please contact me at my website with questions or for virtual book club "visits."*

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the importance of the Prince Edward Island setting to the success of the story? Could the novel be set anywhere else? If so, where and why? If not, why not? Does the book's location remind you of any place you have lived or visited?
2. The novel moves back and forth in time. How does this affect the storytelling? How do you feel about knowing some parts of the mystery that Beet and her friends will never know?
3. Which characters do you like best or least, both in the main narrative and the historical flashbacks?
4. There are many strong female characters in the novel, including Beet, Jeannine, Deirdre and Lily. Which historical or literary heroines do they call to mind? Why?
5. Which characters would you like to know more about and why? Which characters would you like to follow into another book? What would you like to see happen to them?
6. This novel is based on cultural, regional and family folklore. What stories from your culture, region or family inspire you?
7. If you were casting a movie adaptation who would be the best cast?
8. Music is a big part of the book. Make a playlist that you think best evokes the mood and action of the story.
9. The book has both supernatural and realistic elements. Which elements did you most relate to? Why?
10. Share your most meaningful quotes with the group.

Activities: I invite you to share any art, music or fanfic with me on my twitter (@reginamhansen) or Instagram (reginamhansenwriter) or by contacting me here on my website (<https://www.reginamhansen.com/contact-me>):

1. As a group or individually, write a fanfic story about the characters and/or setting.
2. Beet's new friend Sean is an artist who records many of the sights and events of the novel in his sketchbook. How would you draw Beet's world? If you like to draw, do a drawing.
3. Beet is a fiddle player, and the story turns on her attempts to recreate the melody her cousin Gerry's ghost plays for her in Chapter 1. Do you play an instrument or sing? How do you hear the music in the novel? Try to play or sing what you imagine Gerry's tune (or even Marina's) might sound like.
4. Design a bookmark inspired by *The Coming Storm*.

### Recipes for Book Club treats, inspired by the novel:

The internet has many recipes for the kinds of treats enjoyed by the characters in *The Coming Storm*. Here are some links to a few good ones:

1. The **fudge squares** that Mom makes “only when someone dies or at Christmas” (this is a fudge cake recipe, but you can cut it into squares):  
<https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/king-arthurs-favorite-fudge-cake-recipe>
2. The **cherry thumbprints** Deirdre makes for the dance:  
<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/holiday-thumbprint-cookies/>
3. The **Queen Elizabeth cake** that the Publicover sisters enjoy:  
<https://www.theenglishkitchen.co/2017/05/queen-elizabeth-cake.html>
4. The **shortbread** that the Publicover sisters also enjoy (traditionally cut into diamonds on Prince Edward Island):  
<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/brown-sugar-shortbread/>

And why not try your treats with tea, lightened with evaporated milk and sweetened with raw or brown sugar?

Thanks for checking out these ideas. My daughter and I enjoyed assembling them. Again, I hope you will contact me with questions or to share your drawings, stories or music, or with ideas for other book club activities you have tried.

Happy reading!

Regina