

- 1) What did you know about the Queen of Sheba before beginning this book?
- 2) Bilqis suspects Maqar's motives for becoming close to her and is never able to reconcile whether her suspicions are true. Do you believe he had his own motives for becoming her lover, or that he loved her for who she was?
- 3) What did you find most interesting about the culture of the Desert Wolves and nomadic people of Bilqis home nation?
- 4) When she becomes queen, Bilqis finds herself increasingly isolated by her position. How does her isolation fuel her long-distance correspondence with Solomon?
- 5) Despite becoming high priestess of the cult of Almaqah, Bilqis experiences a crisis of faith. Describe her spiritual journey through the book.
- 6) In what way is Bilqis, even as a queen, like any other young woman searching for her identity?
- 7) How are Bilqis and Solomon's kingdoms similar? What are some of their most striking differences?
- 8) What did you know of King Solomon before reading this book? How did the character of Solomon surprise you?
- 9) Bilqis' visit to Israel ends in a rush after several events—international, cultural, and within the palace—make it dangerous for her to stay. Which events contributed to her departure the most?
- 10) At the end of her life, who do you believe loved Bilqis most—or best? Solomon, Wahabil, or Yafush?

Group activities:

- The location of the Ark of the Covenant remains a mystery. Appoint one member to conduct a brief search on theories about the fate of the Ark.
- The Solomon and Sheba story is a vital part of Ethiopian cultural identity. Search for and share an article on the Solomonic Dynasty and Emperor Haile Selassie.
- Look up and share images from the Awwam Temple or “Mahram Bilqis”—ruins of a temple in Yemen that bear the Queen of Sheba's name to this day. War in Yemen threatens the area's archaeological record and many artifacts are on the verge of being lost forever, including the remains of the Ma'rib Dam.
- Please be sure to review the book online! Reviews are not only helpful to readers but one of the best gifts you can give an author whose work you've enjoyed.