

Book Club Readers' Guide for:

THE GARGOYLE IN THE SEINE

1. The basis for this story comes from the limited number of choices women had during the latter part of the nineteenth century. How would Clary have been different if she had been brought up in the traditional society of the time with a traditional family, including a mother? Could this story have happened if she had?
2. Reese is very much a product of his background in the way he views women. Clary was intrigued enough by him to overlook some of his behavior that irritated her. Do you think you would feel the same way?
3. Have you ever known anyone like Alexandria, who makes the wrong choices over and over? Why do you think Alexandria does that? Why do you think it is so important to her to gain a title through marriage to Hallington?
4. The Impressionists who lived and worked in Paris at the time of this story changed the art world forever, yet at that time, they had no idea of the impact they would have. Clary and her art student friends are aware of the innovative work the Impressionists are doing. Which of the art students do you think will break with the traditional way of painting and take up the Impressionist style?
5. Clary struggles to deal with her feelings of responsibility for her brother Sam. How would you have handled Sam if you had been in Clary's place?
6. Does Hallington remind you of any modern day celebrities in his behavior?
7. What would you have done if you had been in Beatrice's place?
8. Even with the restrictions of the time, would you have liked to live in Paris in 1878? Why or why not?
9. At times the author told the story from the point of view of Vasily and Kirill. Why do you think she did that?
10. One of the author's favorite characters is that of Quillan, Clary's cousin. Who was your favorite character?

Contact Dee at deegarretson@gmail.com if you would like her to Skype or phone in to your book club.