

Reader/Book Club Guide

I never have more fun than when I'm researching and planning my Legacy series. My fascination with the parapsychology, metaphysics and straight-on fantasy of these books is a lifetime journey it's now a privilege to share with readers.

It's my dream (pun intended) that the great things I work so hard to weave into this contemporary paranormal world seem so natural, so real, that you could almost imagine them happening to a friend, a neighbor, or even yourself. I hope these suggestions for understanding and discussing the various layers of each story help you fall even deeper in love with my characters and their journeys.

Story Elements

1. The identity of the "secret" child is a mystery from the climax of Dark Legacy through the first two-thirds of Secret Legacy. Several alternative explanations are given, from the child being a figment of Sarah's still splintering sanity, to the child's dream image being a Center plant intended to further manipulate Sarah's mind and through her the Brotherhood, to her appearances being echoes of Sarah herself from her forgotten childhood memories.

How did you respond to each possibility? How does each alternative reflect the observer's (and the reader's) view of the Temple Legacy? How does the final reveal of the child's true identity grow from what you learn about her throughout the stories?

2. The Center is a covert government organization you met first in Dark Legacy. Their mission is to develop psychic weaponology that will protect innocents all over the world. It's a common argument for weapons development, and most who advocate arming themselves or their group (either defensively or offensively) feel they're on the side of right.

What was your reaction to this key external conflict in Secret Legacy?

3. Richard was the villain (or at least represented the Center) for most of Dark Legacy. In Secret Legacy, we slowly get to know him better and learn more about his and Sarah's past. Sarah blames him for what's happened to her, her twin and their legacy, regardless of his insistence that his intentions were always to help them, and that the Brotherhood's mission for centuries has been to protect powerful Legacies like hers from falling into the wrong hands.

Whose side were you on in the early stages of Sarah's story? Did your allegiance shift with Sarah's? Which scene do you think was her turning point toward totally trusting Richard?

4. Richard's Brotherhood is honor bound to protect the Psychic Realm from the manipulation of their most powerful legacies. Difficult sacrifices have been made for centuries, to protect those with psychic gifts and the unsuspecting world that insists on believing that people and powers like the Legacies don't exist.

Do you agree with the Brotherhood's methods for maintaining balance? Are their methods as much about controlling psychic gifts as the Center scientists? Did your view of the Brotherhood's choices and dictates change over the course of Dark Legacy and Secret Legacy? Did you beat Richard to his revelation that the Brotherhood's tactics must change, if these warriors are to have any hope of defending the Psychic Realm against the Center's next move?

Dream Elements

1. Secret Legacy is even more rich with dream symbols than Dark Legacy.

What were the strongest elements from your reading experience? Which symbols spoke to your waking and/or sleeping mind once you set the book aside?

2. Color is perhaps the strongest clue to the meaning of Sarah's dreams.

When did you pick up on them, and how did their nebulous imagery work for you as you experienced each more detailed adventure back into her shared dreams?

3. The little girl in Sarah's dreams could easily represent the child in all of us, with issues from unresolved childhood conflict that still remains to be solved.

If you were to meet your childhood self in a dream, what memories and experiences would still be waiting on your sleeping mind's canvas for you to confront?

4. Sarah's dreams can be more lethal than either she or Richard first realize. We often fear our own dreams, because of the issues lurking in our subconscious that we fight hard to avoid when we're awake. But it's not until Sarah fully embraces the ocean and the colors and the door and the screams and the wolf, etc. in her dreams, that she takes the final step toward controlling the powerful emotions and abilities threatening her future.

Are their common dream experiences waiting for you in your sleep that can help you make the same strides in your life? How will you help yourself trust your own sleeping mind to show you the work you need to do in your conscious world?

5. I threw a lot of dream terms at you very quickly in Dark Legacy: lucid dreaming, shared dreaming, latent dreams, dream travel, the collective unconscious, and the list goes on... In Secret Legacy, once the contemporary world of the series was set up, no real explanation is given, beyond re-anchoring you back into the flow of the story in the early chapters.

Which technique captured your imagination more effectively?

6. I've been fascinated with dreams my whole life and researched Dream Theory for years before writing the Legacy Series, because of active and vivid dream experiences I've personally had throughout my life. Much of the parapsychological explanation behind the Legacy rings true for you.

The Psychic Realm

1. There are other powerful Legacies out there, in danger from the Center. Based on what you've learned about the Brotherhood and the Psychic Realm and the Center's progress, what do you think the government's next step will be?

How will the Brotherhood respond? Will the Temples continue to align themselves with those fighting to protect the Psychic Realm at large?

2. Based on what you learn about the inner workings of the Brotherhood and the depth of the Psychic Realm, are the watchers the best caretakers of psychic balance?

How do you see their methods evolving thanks to Richard Livingston's work with the Temple Legacy?

3. More Legacies will likely struggle with the Brotherhood, as their independence is threatened by the Center and their individual destinies.

What do you envision for the potential civil war that is brewing? Will there ever come a time where the Legacy families will band together and protect their own, beyond the Brotherhood's reach? How long will those with powerful psychic gifts accept the watcher's oversight and control of their gifts, for the good of mankind?

4. Richard was a Brotherhood spy within the Center's Dream Weaver program. Secret Legacy begins with a mole being discovered within the Brotherhood. Both situations are resolved by the end of the novel... Or, are they?

These warriors are true brothers, but as more new blood, like the Temple Twins, are brought into their order, how do you see internal tensions growing and threatening their ability to defend the Psychic Realm?

Family Elements

1. At its heart, Sarah and Maddie Temple's story is a family drama. A saga, because their legacy's struggle to come to terms with its often unwanted gifts is centuries old.

Do Sarah and Maddie's family struggles ring familiar, as they navigate their journey as twins, the last of their family line, and sisters who've both supported and disappointed each other through shared difficulties?

2. How are Sarah's struggles with her sister and parents mirrored in her search for and ultimate confrontation with Trinity?

What does she have to learn about her past and her unresolved inability to trust those she loves in her present, in order to be able to reach Trinity and convince the child to believe in her own future?

3. Richard's Brotherhood of Watchers is a strong family unit, complete with infighting and factions and daring attempts to hold their bond together, even after mistakes and bad choices have cost them dearly.

What parallels do you see between Richard's attempt to usher the Watchers into a new era, and the efforts of leaders of families that you know (or perhaps your own) as they face difficult choices and challenges?

4. Sarah's dreams and the mural she painted as a child and the near-fantasy connection she shares with Trinity throughout *Secret Legacy* are all metaphors for her family's secrets and failures and possible future.

What finally gives her the strength to face the messages her subconscious mind is sending her through her dreams? What parallels do your own family experiences, or those of families that you know?