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A Bridge of Stars by Tasha Kazanjian | Reading Guide

General Questions:

1. *A Bridge of Stars* picks up mere hours after the end of book one, *A Trick of Spades*. Despite the short passage of time, both Clíana and Colm have grown significantly from their experiences in *A Trick of Spades*. Describe some examples of their growth as seen in the beginning chapters of *A Bridge of Stars*.
2. The book alternates between Clíana and Colm's points of view (POVs) throughout the story. How did this storytelling device impact your views of different characters? Which main character's POV is your favorite?
3. Rafael makes good on his promise to teach Alchema to Clíana, starting with the alphabet while they are riding the bus to Maedalc. Why is Şiras against this? Why do Rafael and Clíana continue to study Alchema despite Şiras's disapproval?
4. Their time hiding in the apartment is difficult for everyone, though for differing reasons. Discuss what each character struggles with the most during this time.
5. Aisling's disappearance is the inciting incident that blows their cover. What specifically happens to them that night? Each person in the group is affected in different ways; discuss how this sets up the rest of the book.
6. What were your initial impressions of Nicola and Akhed? Did anything specific make you suspicious of their intentions?
7. What is Fael Ethenwyte and why is this group interested in the twins? What aspect of the history of this world is most interesting to you? Do you agree with the members of Fael Ethenwyte that the magic of Alchema and Illata should be allowed to be used together? (For the Leader: This could be an opportunity to compare Fael Ethenwyte with Rafel's parents, or even the way that different members of Fael Ethenwyte disagree—some willing to choose violence while others wanting to remain peaceful.)
8. What about Jane? Discuss the twins' complicated relationship with her, including the ways she truly helps (with Aisling, with understanding how to hone an Illata, etc.) and the details of her ultimate betrayal.
9. Despite Nicola and Akhed's ulterior motives, they do indeed teach the twins some things about how to use the dice. What did you learn about how the dice work? How are Clíana and Colm most effective with the dice? Are the dice best used by a single person or by a pair of people working together?
10. Are the dice the "bridge of stars" (as referred to by the title, *A Bridge of Stars*)? Explain why you agree or disagree with this idea. What does it mean to be a star-listener?
11. Which side character was your favorite in this book, and why?
12. If you could have any Illata in this story, which would you choose? Why? Or would you prefer not to have an Illata and instead study Alchema instead? Or do both?

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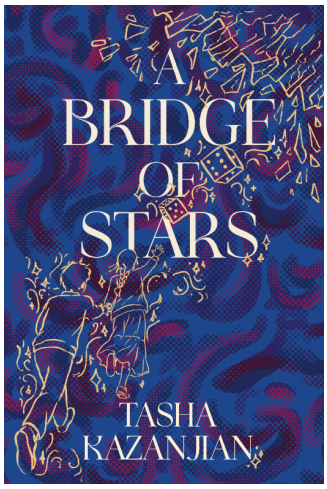
Thematic Questions:

1. Many characters in this story are working through different kinds of grief in differing ways. Choose two characters and compare what they are grieving and how that grief affects what they do. The possibilities are endless! (For the Leader: Consider encouraging unexpected pairings like Clíana and Nicola, Rafael and Jane, or Aisling and Finna.)
2. Responsibility is another major theme throughout this story, but different characters' expectations are not always reasonable. Think of a part of the story where a character is wrongfully expected to be responsible for the actions of someone else. What is that character's *actual* responsibility? In what ways have you tried to take responsibility for someone else's actions? What ways can you work on practicing true responsibility for yourself without taking on someone else's responsibilities?
3. Throughout *A Bridge of Stars* characters must learn to trust and rely on others, and this often leads to a lot of conflict. How do Colm and Clíana struggle with this? Do they learn to accept help from others? Is the conflict between Colm and Clíana resolved by the end of the book? What about other characters: Aisling, Rafael, or even adult characters?



A Bridge of Stars by Tasha Kazanjian is book two of The Riven Castle series, an urban fantasy for teens set in a unique mid-century modern-inspired world. Book one, *A Trick of Spades*, is also available.

If you enjoyed *A Bridge of Stars*, consider leaving a review on Amazon or Goodreads! And be sure to check out these other Owl's Nest Publishers titles:

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