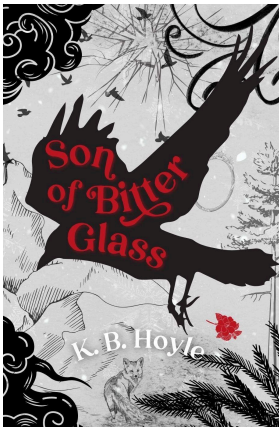


General Questions:

1. *Son of Bitter Glass* is a retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen." Have you ever read the original fairytale? If you've seen the Disney movie *Frozen*, you probably noticed very little resemblance to the original fairytale or this retelling. Did *Son of Bitter Glass* remind you of any other classic fairytales, fables, myths, or stories? (For the leader: C. S. Lewis took inspiration from "The Snow Queen" for the White Witch in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. There are also elements of "Cinderella" in *Son of Bitter Glass*.)
2. Do you have a favorite main character? Or a character you sympathize with the most?
3. Discuss the curse of the Snow Queen. How did you expect Eira to break the curse? What surprised you the most about how she breaks it?
4. If you have read *Son of the Deep*\*, then you have already met James. What did you think about his character in this book? What journey is he going on, both emotionally and physically? (For the leader: if readers have not met James before, there is still enough information given in *Son of Bitter Glass* to glean that he is running away from pain in his past and ultimately running toward trying to grow into a new, and hopefully better, person.) \**Son of the Deep* is the precursor to *Son of Bitter Glass* in *The Fairytale Collection* series. It is not necessary to have read *Son of the Deep* before reading *Son of Bitter Glass*, but reading both might enrich your understanding of some of the characters.
5. Let's discuss a few quotes from the book:
  - a. The magical beings in this story seem to have more power than the human characters. And yet Frigg tells Eira: "Eternity is not written in magic spells—it is written in human hearts. And that is beyond the comprehension of the fae." How does this encourage Eira as she sets off on the final part of her journey to the Witch's palace?
  - b. Visha tells her brother: "Humans may not be magical, but sometimes they wield the greatest magic of all—hidden away in things like self-sacrifice, humility...love. It's a sort of natural magic that can overcome our fae enchantments, and yes, I do fear it." How are these human qualities self-sacrifice, humility, and love powerful in the story? Have you ever seen these qualities demonstrated by someone in your real life?
6. What surprised you the most about this story?

## Thematic Questions:

1. Self-sacrifice is a major theme in *Son of Bitter Glass*. Which characters give sacrificially to others in the story? What makes an action self-sacrificial?
2. The bitter shard curses an individual by distorting their perception of reality and burrowing deep into the heart of the afflicted person. In what ways did you see different characters fall under the curse, specifically the King, Eira's father, and ultimately Isbrand? How did the curse manifest?
3. Eira's character shows us that we need each other and cannot exist in a vacuum. First she has Isbrand, her best friend. When he falls under the curse, what happens to Eira without him? What vital role does James fill for Eira in the second half of the book?
4. Eira must depend on a number of different people during her heroic journey in this book. How do the following characters help her at different times?: Isbrand, James, Munin, Gerda, the Prince and Princess of dreamers, Frigg, the Beorun.



*Son of Bitter Glass* by K. B. Hoyle is part of *The Fairytale Collection*, published by Owl's Nest Publishers. *The Fairytale Collection* is a non-sequential series; the books exist in a shared universe with shared characters, but can be read in any order.

If you loved *Son of Bitter Glass*, please consider leaving a review on Amazon or Goodreads! And check out the other two titles in the Fairytale Collection series:

*Son of the Deep*  
*Son of Gold and Sorrow*