



BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

FANTASY



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING THE CRANE
AND THE WOLF FOR YOUR
NEXT BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

THE CRANE AND THE WOLF

In a world where ancient magic intertwines with fateful encounters, *The Crane and the Wolf* unveils a tale of timeless struggle and culinary mastery. On her one thousandth birthday, Lady Crane, an elf of unparalleled baking prowess, faces the daunting task of quelling the insatiable hunger of the Wolf—a being cursed with a voracious lycanthropic spirit. As the full moon looms, only a feast of extraordinary flavors can prevent the Wolf's monstrous transformation. With each savory pie and lemon-infused curd, Lady Crane not only battles to protect the Archipelago but also seeks an apprentice to inherit her culinary legacy. Step into a saga where every bite is a battle, and every flavor is a fleeting chance at salvation.

PAGE COUNT: 278

WORD COUNT: 60,000

KEY WORDS: Fantasy Novel | Culinary Adventure | High Fantasy | Food-themed Fantasy

COMP BOOKS: *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden | *The Night Circus* by

Erin Morgenstern

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The Crane's Elixir

Ingredients: A blend of elderflower liqueur, representing the Crane's elegance; white cranberry juice, for the Crane's fair skin; and a splash of blue curaçao, symbolizing her sharp, timeless eyes.

Preparation: Combine the ingredients over ice, stir gently to mix the flavors, and serve in a tall glass garnished with a twist of lemon peel, mirroring the Crane's beak.

Taste Profile: A refreshing, slightly sweet drink with floral notes and a hint of citrus, capturing the essence of the Crane's character.

The Wolf's Brew

Ingredients: Dark spiced rum as the base, embodying the Wolf's ferocity; a dash of blackberry syrup, reflecting his deep connection to the wild; and a hint of chili pepper, for the heat of his transformation.

Preparation: Shake the ingredients with ice, strain into a rock glass filled with crushed ice, and garnish with a blackberry and a small sprig of thyme.

Taste Profile: A bold, robust cocktail with a spicy kick, evoking the Wolf's intense and untamed nature.

Pick your nature and enjoy these literary-inspired beverages!

SIGNATURE DRINK

The Moon Will Sing by The Crane Wives
Curses by The Crane Wives
Tongues & Teeth by The Crane Wives
Never Love an Anchor by The Crane Wives
Allies or Enemies by The Crane Wives
Take Me to War (Live) by The Crane Wives
The Hand That Feeds by The Crane Wives
Metaphor by The Crane Wives
The Garden by The Crane Wives
The Well by The Crane Wives



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN THE
DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- How does the relationship between the Crane and the Wolf evolve throughout the story?
- What does the Crane's dedication to her task say about her character?
- In what ways do the secondary characters contribute to the main narrative?
- Who do you relate to most and why? Opal, Carmen or Boffo?.
- How do Opal, Boffo and Carmen's backgrounds affect what they do in the kitchen for the Wolf?
- Why are Opal, Carmen and Boffo driven to compete in this competition?
- Do the bakers backgrounds affect how easy their job is in the kitchen?
- Discuss the risks and benefits the crane faces in helping the wolf. How does her decision reflect her priorities?
- How does the fable illustrate the concept of reciprocity? Is the wolf's lack of gratitude surprising?
- Explore the symbolism behind the wolf's sharp teeth and the crane's long neck. What do these physical attributes represent?
- Compare this fable to real-life situations where people help others without expecting anything in return.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Creative Writing:

Encourage participants to write alternative endings or additional scenes for the fable. How might the story change if the characters made different choices?

Role-Playing:

Act out scenes from the fable. Participants can take on the roles of the wolf, the crane, and other forest animals. Explore dialogue and emotions.

Debate:

Divide participants into teams and debate ethical questions related to the fable. For example: Should the crane have helped the wolf despite the risks? Is reciprocity essential in relationships?

Artistic Expression:

Have each member of the group create one of the dishes prepared for the Wolf and share your culinary creations for a literary feast.

Interactive Storytelling:

Collaboratively build a new fable based on the same theme. Participants take turns adding elements to the story, emphasizing teamwork and creativity.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS



J. Darris Mitchell writes ecologically obsessed science fiction and fantasy this is often inspired the by ecosystems around him. He wrote his first science fiction story in 4th grade, and has been obsessed with weird worlds ever since. He majored in screenwriting at the University of Texas at Austin and then worked as a science elementary school teacher for five years before retiring to write and raise his darling wife's children while she's at work. When he's not writing or reading, you can find him birdwatching, gardening, brewing beer or trying to get his two sons to do four of those five things with him. He lives in Austin, Texas with his darling wife, his two inspiring sons, a flock of backyard chickens, and the world's laziest cat.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <https://www.jdarrismitchell.com/>

OTHER BOOKS: A Crown of Cobwebs

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- ◆ FACEBOOK
- ◆ GOODREADS