



# Book Club Resource Guide

## Strange Alliances

“A fantastic follow up in this uniquely compelling time-travel adventure”

Goodreads Reviewer



Braided Dimensions Series Book #3

Thank you for considering *Strange Alliances*  
for your next book club read!



*Celtic mythology, medieval history, and modern-day mystery blend in this story where past and present collide.*

## Synopsis

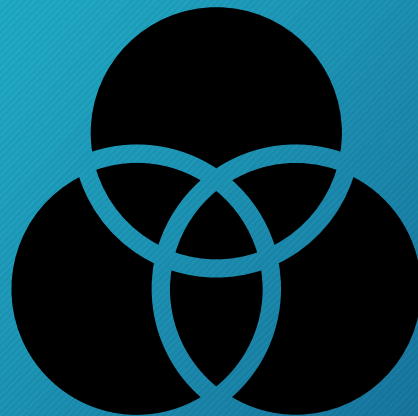
The magical series Braided Dimensions soars to new heights with *Strange Alliances*. At the start of the series, Kay, a Berkeley professor of ancient languages, falls under the spell of a charming bard who takes her to medieval time. Back home, she is determined to return to that ancient dimension where spirit-walking and mind-speak are practiced by healers and mages. With no knowledge of magic—only curiosity and a passion for old languages—Kay acquires talents only to become enmeshed in threatening plots as she crosses back and forth from present to past. When her son and daughter become entangled in the web of intrigues, she must learn to protect them or lose all she loves. Readers of *Strange Alliances* journey deep into Norwegian caves and high in Jutland towers of ancient time, encountering beguiling otherworld creatures and an amber stone that may be at the heart of all malice, or of sublime love. Discover surprising allies with Kay as she struggles to survive a medieval world of strange, sometimes frightening but always captivating possibilities.



# Three Story Themes



- Search for Meaning: Kay tastes the reality of what she's only studied.
- Family: Kay fears that her travel to the past could affect her grown children.
- Connection to roots: Kay encounters an ancestral era when life touched spirit, soul and magic



# Discussion Questions



- **1. Whose story impacted you the most?** Consider the various narratives within the book and discuss which resonated with you. Was there a particular character or event that left a lasting impression?
- **2. How does the author define the term “strange”?** Explore why the title “strange alliances” for the book. Does the author explicitly define it, or is it left open to interpretation?
- **3. Do you have any strange alliances in your own life?** Reflect on your personal experiences and attitudes toward strangeness. Do you approach it with trust, suspicion, or indifference?
- **4. Have you ever been deceived by a someone you counted as an ally?** Share any instances where you’ve been misled or deceived by someone. How did it affect you?
- **5. What types of magic touch you in this story?** Name the various magical powers. Which would you like to wield in your life?
- **What was your initial impression of the book, and did it change as you read further?**

These questions are meant to spark thoughtful discussion and help your group delve deeper into the themes and characters of the book. Feel free to explore additional topics related to “Strange Alliances”!

# Book Detail Questions Set #1



1. Describe a character's clothes.
2. Name a major theme in the book.
3. Did any of the settings add to the story's atmosphere? Tell how.
4. Were there any surprising twists that caught you off guard?
5. How did the author use language and style to enhance the storytelling? Give an example.
6. How did the book make you feel overall?
7. Were there any symbols in the book that stood out to you?
8. What was a favorite part of the book?
9. Have you read any other works by the author? How was this book similar or different?
10. Did any characters grow over the course of the story? How?

# About the author



Marie Judson has been a professor, journal editor, and coffee roaster. Now a teacher on the northern coast of California, she has written five fantasy and science fiction novels. Some of her passions are studying dreams and dream symbols, singing harmony, and working toward a sustainable earth.

Marie is happy to participate in blog tours and other engagements with book groups. Reach out to her at her [website](#), sign up to receive her [newsletter](#), and/or follow her on Instagram: [marie.judson.writer](https://www.instagram.com/marie.judson.writer)

*Come join the magic!*



Bonus for groups: contact me about your book club's participation and I will provide an exclusive culminating party plan!

