

THE OTTOMAN DYNASTY CHRONICLES

I am delighted that so many readers have contacted me to say they have chosen one of my books as their Book Club pick! To help prompt discussion and set the scene for a fun and enjoyable gathering, I have prepared this Book Club Pack! It contains a selection of questions which you can pick and choose from, a Spotify playlist and some menu ideas and other suggestions inspired by the books to help you host the perfect Ottoman Dynasty Chronicles Book Club Party!

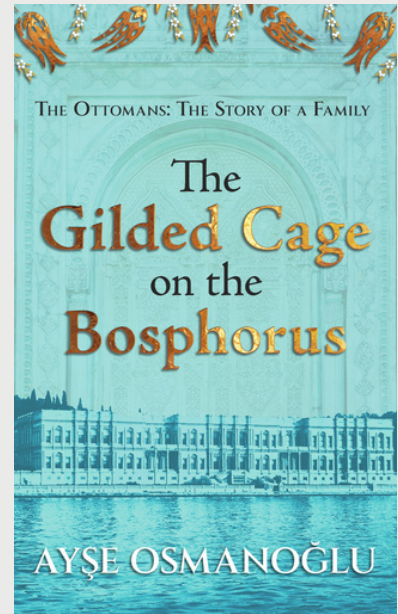
A compelling tale of family, duty, and resilience unfolds amidst the magnificence and splendour of Imperial Istanbul during the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire.

The Gilded Cage On The Bosphorus:

1903-1905: Sultan Murad V and his family languish in enforced confinement as the new century dawns, while anarchy and revolution threaten the established order and powerful enemies plot the fall of the once mighty Ottoman Empire.

A Farewell To Imperial Istanbul - Centenary Edition:

1922-1924: As the Ottoman Empire crumbles in the wake of the Great War, so too do the fortunes of the House of Osman and their Imperial capital of Istanbul.



For further information about *The Ottoman Dynasty Chronicles* or Ayşe Osmanoglu, and for all media and event enquiries, please contact the author using the details below:

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Discussion Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the title? Did you find it meaningful?
2. How relevant or relatable are the themes or messages of the book to society today?
3. Which particular pieces of historical fact included in the novel surprised you most and why?
4. How did the author blend historical facts and fiction in this book? Did you find the book accurate and authentic?
5. How did the author portray the historical setting and period of this book? Did you learn anything new or interesting about the time and place of the story?
6. What are some of the ethical, moral, or social implications of the book? How does it challenge or support your values or beliefs?
7. Did this book challenge or change your perspective on any historical events or figures? Did it make you want to learn more about them?
8. Did any part of this book strike a particular emotion in you? Which part and what emotion did the book make you feel?
9. If you could travel back in time to the historical setting and period of this book, what would you want to do or see and who would you like to meet?
10. Has reading this book inspired you to visit Istanbul? If you have visited before, where was your favourite place in the city?

AUTHOR RELATED QUESTIONS

1. What do you think motivated the author to share her family's story?
2. How much do you think the author's personal views or biases influenced the book and how do you feel about that?
3. Did you find the author's writing style easy or hard to read? How long did it take you to get into the book?
4. Are there any areas you wished the author had elaborated upon further?
5. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?

CHARACTER RELATED QUESTIONS

1. Who was your favourite character? Why?
2. Which character did you find the most complex or intriguing and why?
3. Who has power and who does not? How does the amount of power each character have influence their choices?
4. What kinds of challenges do the main characters face, and how do they deal with these challenges?
5. If the book was made into a film or series, who would you cast in the leading roles?



Discussion Questions

1. Sultan Mehmed VI Vahideddin faces an emotional and difficult decision as he prepares to leave his family and the country. How does his internal conflict and sense of duty reflect the themes of leadership and sacrifice in the novel?
2. How does Abdülmecid's pragmatic acceptance of the Caliphate reflect the broader theme of transition and adapting to political change, both personally for the main characters and politically for the Ottoman Empire?
3. Discuss the ways Imperial İstanbul as the setting of the novel plays a character role in the story? How does the author evoke the city's historical significance and unique essence through detailed descriptions?
4. Explore how the picnic scene at the Muradiye Estate highlights themes of family unity. Which moments or interactions exemplify these themes best? And which relationships stand out the most to you and why?
5. Explore the relationship between Nihad and Vâsıb, and their different character traits and priorities? How does their bond evolve throughout the book? What moments highlight their connection or reveal their challenges?
6. In what ways did the football match at Taksim Stadium serve as a platform for expressing Turkish identity and resistance against foreign occupation? How did the presence of the Princes and their actions reinforce this symbolism?
7. Safiru undergoes a profound transformation in the cherry orchard scene. What key aspects of her character development stand out to you? How does her background influence her interactions and leadership among the women? And, how does Nihad's initiative to empower the women living on the Estate impact their lives, and in what ways does it alter Safiru's sense of purpose and fulfillment?
8. How does Vâsıb's act of selling his beloved books reflect themes of loss and nostalgia? What does it reveal about his emotional state and his connection to his past?
9. Discuss the significance of the Sürre Room and Abdülmecid's morning prayers there. How does this setting symbolise the end of an era for the Ottoman Dynasty and the Islamic world?
10. Analyse the symbolism of the Simplon-Orient-Express as the mode of transportation of the Imperial family into exile. How does the luxurious setting of the train juxtapose with their uncertain future?

Bonus Question: How does the Erard piano serve as a symbol in the book, and what does it represent about the family's history and legacy?

Host The Perfect Book Club Party

If your Book Club picks

A FAREWELL TO IMPERIAL ISTANBUL

for its monthly read, I invite you to have a little extra fun by setting the scene with scented candles, book-themed food, and a special Spotify playlist!

There are several references in the book to classic Ottoman drinks and dishes, so I suggest serving some 'Turkish Delights' at your Book Club Party.

My characters drink apple tea, Turkish coffee and iced fruit sherbets in a variety of flavours including pomegranate, mandarin, lemon & mint and cherry.

Served alongside these drinks, you could offer mezes like stuffed vine leaves, börek, hummus and flatbreads, as well as sweet treats such as Turkish Delight, baklava, helva, saray lokması or orange blossom revani - try this [recipe](#), it's delicious.

Prince Nihad particularly enjoyed revani, while Prince Vasib loved saray lokması!



Light a candle to evoke the exotic fragrance of a salon in an Ottoman Palace.

I love the scent of Jasmine, Rose and Orange Blossom or Sandalwood and Musk

Music played an important role in the lives of members of the Ottoman Imperial family. To create the right atmosphere at your Book Club party, I suggest playing The Ottoman Dynasty Chronicles Spotify Playlist. [Click here!](#) It features pieces played in the book, including:

The Gondola Song by Sultan Abdülaziz - played in Chapter 7

Ragtime Songs - played in Chapter 8

Hungarian Gypsy Music - played in Chapter 8

Jazz Songs - played in Chapter 9 & Chapter 10

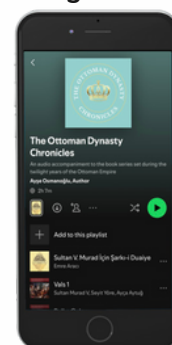
Turkish Folk Music - played in Chapter 12

Ottoman Military Band Tunes - played in Chapter 12

Pour La Constitution, by Princess Fehime - played in Chapter 12

Romanian Gypsy Music - mentioned in Chapter 13

Waltz in E Major by Sultan Murad V - played in Chapter 21



Members of the Ottoman Imperial family enjoyed poetry and literature. If you are looking to add to your TBR list you could add these titles, all of which are mentioned in the book

The Phantom of the Opera, by Gaston Leroux, mentioned in Chapter 4

The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas, mentioned in Chapter 4

Don Quixote de la Mancha by Miguel de Cervantes, mentioned in Chapter 14

