

# 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!

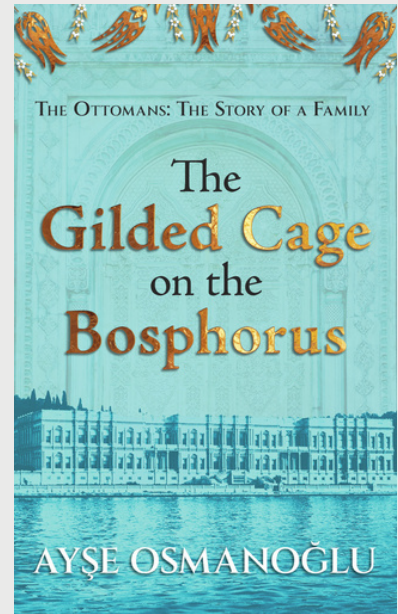
**A compelling tale of family, duty, and resilience unfolds amidst the magnificence and splendour of Imperial Istanbul during the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire.**

## 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 İstanbul.



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:

**Website:** [www.ayseosmanoglu.com](http://www.ayseosmanoglu.com)

**Instagram:** [@ayseosmanogluauthor](https://www.instagram.com/ayseosmanogluauthor)

**X:** [@AyseGulnev](https://www.x.com/AyseGulnev)

**Facebook:** [Ayse Osmanoglu, Author](https://www.facebook.com/AyseOsmanogluAuthor)

**Pinterest:** [Ayşe Osmanoglu](https://www.pinterest.com/AyseOsmanoglu)

**Goodreads:** [Ayşe Osmanoglu](https://www.goodreads.com/AyseOsmanoglu)



# Discussion Questions

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

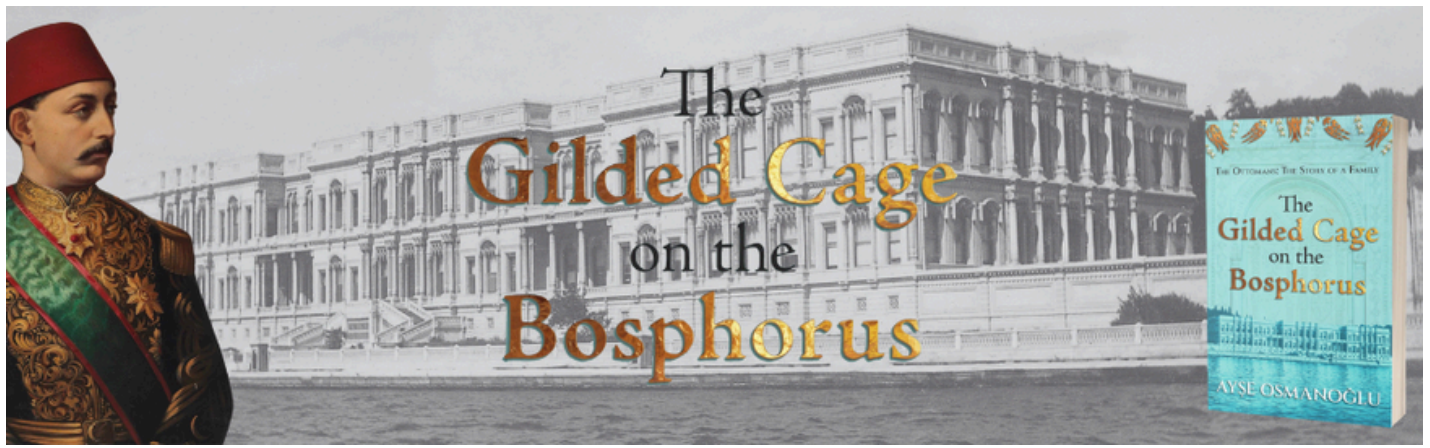
1. What is the significance of the title? Did you find it meaningful?
2. How relevant or relatable are the themes or messages of the book to society today?
3. Which particular pieces of historical fact included in the novel surprised you most and why?
4. How did the author blend historical facts and 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. Many cultural and religious rituals are described following the birth of Prince Vasıb. Which of these Ottoman traditions surrounding the birth of a child did you find most interesting?
2. Sultan Abdülhamid II justifies usurping the throne from his brother by believing he acted in the best interest of the Empire. Do you think his reasoning is valid or do you think Sultan Murad would have made a good constitutional monarch, leading to History taking a very different course?
3. How does the book illustrate the political and social climate of the Ottoman Empire during Sultan Abdülhamid's reign? Discuss the tensions between liberalism and conservatism, censorship, and the role of intellectuals in society.
4. How does the author use descriptions of the Çırağan Palace and Istanbul to create a vivid sense of period and setting?
5. Discuss the themes of family loyalty and betrayal. How is Sultan Murad betrayed? How do many of his brothers and sisters demonstrate their loyalty to him after his deposition? Discuss Hadice's betrayal towards her cousin Naime, and how her brother Prince Selahaddin shows his loyalty to her despite the serious accusations?
6. Discuss the themes of liberty and freedom versus confinement and constraint. Explore what physical and emotional scars were caused by imprisonment on the main characters. How do Selahaddin and his children perceive their newfound liberty after Sultan Murad's death, and what lingering restrictions continue to shape their lives?
7. Discuss the theme of resilience in the face of adversity. How do the characters demonstrate resilience during their long confinement, in the face of personal tragedy and in the wake of the carnage caused by the bomb explosion at Yıldız Mosque?
8. Princess Fehime commissions a photographic portrait of herself and her sister Princess Hadice to immortalise a moment in time and preserve their image for future generations. How does this desire reflect and contribute to the exploration of themes such as memory, legacy, and familial relationships in the novel?
9. Explore the portrayal of women in the book, particularly through the characters of Princess Hadice and Princess Fehime. How do they challenge or conform to societal expectations of their time?
10. The book explains why Jerusalem serves as a symbol of religious and cultural heritage for multiple faiths, and highlights the historical instances of religious tolerance and coexistence in Jerusalem under Ottoman rule. How can these historical examples inform current efforts towards peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance in the region?

# Host The Perfect Book Club Party

If your Book Club picks

**THE GILDED CAGE ON THE BOSPHORUS**

**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, rose-water, mandarin, lemon & mint, cherry, peach and violet.

Served alongside these drinks, you could offer mezzes 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.

Sultan Murad V particularly enjoyed orange blossom Turkish Delight, while Prince Nihad loved revani!



**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:**

Blue Danube Waltz by Strauss – played in Chapter 5

Pizzicato Polka by Strauss – played in Chapter 5

A Chopin Mazurka – played in Chapter 6

La Donna è Mobile, from Rigoletto by Verdi – played in Chapter 6

Turkish Folk Music – played in Chapter 7

Andante de Lucia de Lammermoor by Donizetti – Chapter 10

Casta Diva, from Norma by Bellini – Chapter 10

William Tell Overture by Rossini – Chapter 10

The Humming Chorus, from Madame Butterfly by Puccini – sung in Chapter 12

A Chopin Nocturne – played in Chapter 15

Waltz in E Major by Sultan Murad V – played in Chapter 23

**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**

**Echo**, A Selection of Poetry by Nigâr Hanım, mentioned in Chapter 5

**The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle, mentioned in Chapter 8

**Madame Bovary** by Gustave Flaubert, mentioned in Chapter 10

**Dangerous Liaisons** by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, mentioned in Chapter 10

**The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas, mentioned in Chapter 12

**The Return of Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle, mentioned in Chapter 20

