

# 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.**

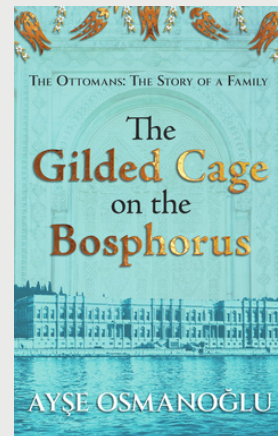
## The Gilded Cage On The Bosphorus:

**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.

**Palace in the Mist: 1906–1909:** The story of the Muradiye branch of the Ottoman Dynasty continues against the backdrop of the Macedonian Struggle and the Young Turk Revolution, as a new order threatens to emerge.

## 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:

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# Discussion Points

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

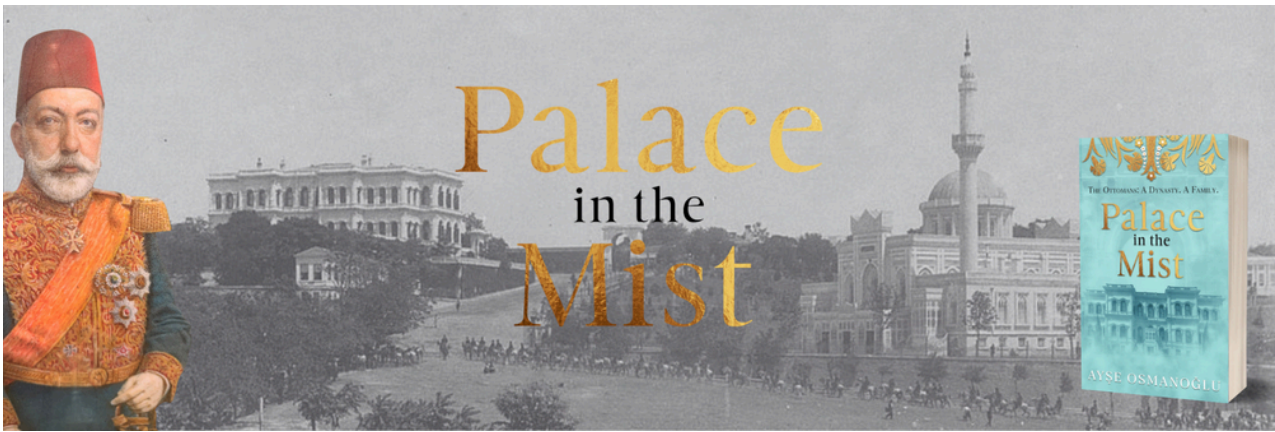
1. What is the significance of the title? Did you find it meaningful?
2. How relevant or relatable are the themes or messages of the book to society today?
3. Which particular pieces of historical fact included in the novel surprised you most and why?
4. How did the author blend historical facts and 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. How does the book illustrate the political and social climate of the Ottoman Empire during Sultan Abdülhamid's reign?
2. How do religion, nationalism, and Western imperialism drive the conflict in Macedonia?
3. How does Captain Hakkı reconcile his loyalty to the Ottoman Empire with his growing fears for its survival?
4. İstanbul is often described in rich detail. In what ways does the city function almost like a character in its own right?
5. How do Hadice, Fehime, and Fatma's responses to the exhibits in the Imperial Museum reveal their individual desires, and what do these differences suggest about women's roles and futures in the Empire?
6. What is the symbolic importance of Sultan Murad V's portrait during Fatma's wedding ceremony?
7. What internal conflict does Sultan Abdülhamid face as he reflects on his rule and the possibility of restoring the Constitution? Do you see him as a ruler resisting change or trying to preserve the Empire?
8. After the restoration of the Constitution, how does Nihad's optimism reflect the hopes of a new generation, and how is it challenged by his father's realism?
9. To what extent does the arrival of the Hejaz Railway in Medina represent both spiritual unity and imperial ambition?
10. How does Naime's miscarriage deepen the emotional stakes of Sultan Abdülhamid's deposition and function as an omen for the dynasty's future?

## Bonus Questions:

- How are women's roles in the Empire portrayed in the novel. Do you see them as constrained, quietly powerful, or both?
  - Is the novel ultimately nostalgic, critical, or balanced in its portrayal of the Ottoman world?
  - At the end of the book, what does Sultan Abdülhamid's final reflection on Sultan Murad suggest about guilt, sacrifice, and duty to the state?
  - Do you think the novel suggests that the fall of the Empire was driven more by internal weakness or external pressure — or an inseparable combination of both?
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# Host The Perfect Book Club Party

If your Book Club picks

**PALACE IN THE MIST**

for its next 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:

Blue Danube Waltz by Strauss

Pizzicato Polka by Strauss

A Chopin Mazurka

La Donna è Mobile, from Rigoletto by Verdi

Turkish Folk Music

Andante de Lucia de Lammermoor by Donizetti

Casta Diva, from Norma by Bellini

William Tell Overture by Rossini

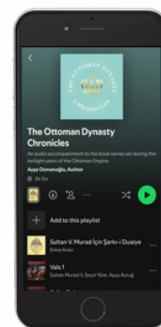
The Humming Chorus, from Madame Butterfly by Puccini

A Chopin Nocturne

Ottoman Military Band Marches

Pour La Constitution, by Princess Fehime

Waltz in E Major by Sultan Murad V



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 books.

**The Return of Sherlock Holmes**, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, mentioned in all books

**Madame Bovary** by Gustave Flaubert, mentioned in The Gilded Cage on the Bosphorus

**Dangerous Liaisons** by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, mentioned in The Gilded Cage

**The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas, mentioned in The Gilded Cage on the Bosphorus

**The Phantom of the Opera** by Gaston Leroux, mentioned in A Farewell to Imperial Istanbul

**The Three Musketeers** by Alexandre Dumas, mentioned in A Farewell To Imperial Istanbul

**Don Quixote de la Mancha** by Miguel de Cervantes, mentioned in A Farewell to Imperial Istanbul

