**The Night Tiger**

**By Yangsze Choo**

**About the Book**

Quick-witted, ambitious Ji Lin is stuck as an apprentice dressmaker, moonlighting as a dancehall girl to help pay off her mother’s Mahjong debts. But when one of her dance partners accidentally leaves behind a gruesome souvenir, Ji Lin may finally get the adventure she has been longing for.

Eleven-year-old houseboy Ren is also on a mission, racing to fulfill his former master’s dying wish: that Ren find the man’s finger, lost years ago in an accident, and bury it with his body. Ren has 49 days to do so, or his master’s soul will wander the earth forever.

As the days tick relentlessly by, a series of unexplained deaths racks the district, along with whispers of men who turn into tigers. Ji Lin and Ren’s increasingly dangerous paths crisscross through lush plantations, hospital storage rooms, and ghostly dreamscapes.

**About the Author**:

Yangsze Choo is the NYTimes bestselling author of THE GHOST BRIDE (soon to be a Netflix Original series) and THE NIGHT TIGER, Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine's Book Club Pick, Amazon's Spotlight Pick for Best Book of the Month, with starred Kirkus, Booklist, and Publisher's Weekly reviews.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* The Ghost Bride by Yangsze Choo
* The Scent Keeper by Erica Bauermeister
* The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi
* From Scratch by Tembi Locke
* Daisy Jones & The Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid

**Discussion Questions**

1. The novel’s title evokes the story of the weretiger, “a beast who, when he chooses, puts on a human skin and comes from the jungle into the village to prey on humans.” What is the significance of that Malayan folktale in the novel? What does it represent for the different characters?

2. Discuss the structure of the novel, alternating between Ren’s and Ji Lin’s perspectives. How do their narrative styles and worldviews compare? Do you prefer one to the other? How would the novel have been different had it only been from one perspective?

3. Discuss Ren’s relationship with Dr. MacFarlane. Does Ren’s desire to bring the finger to his former master’s grave come from a place of love or fear? How is Ren’s life shaped by the masters for whom he works, and how does he determine his own fate?

4. Ji Lin is a more talented student than her stepbrother, Shin, but because she is a girl, she isn’t allowed to continue on to medical school with him. How does this novel portray gender dynamics in colonial Malaya? How do Ji Lin, Lydia, and the other women in the novel either conform to or rebel against societal expectations?

5. Ji Lin reflects, “When people talked about being lucky, perhaps they simply wanted to feel powerful, as though they could manipulate fate.” Discuss the role of superstition in this novel, in which the supposed luck of certain numbers in Chinese tradition motivates many of the characters. What about in your own life? Do you consider yourself to be superstitious?

6. In Chinese culture, the five Confucian Virtues are considered a matched set. Ji Lin reflects: “I had the odd fancy that the five of us were yoked by some mysterious fate. Drawn together, yet unable to break free, the tension made a twisted pattern. We must either separate ourselves, or come together.” Discuss the tension between independence and dependence for these characters.

7. In his conversations with Ji Lin, Yi hints that the Confucian Virtue Li, meaning order or ritual, has been disrupted. What are some examples from the novel of characters, relationships, and other elements that are seemingly out of order or unconventional?

8. Although Lydia is proven to be a murderer, she also works hard to improve the lives of Malayan women. Does her charity work at all redeem her in your eyes? Do you think she is in part a victim of her circumstances?

9. The novel ends with Ji Lin, Shin, Ren, Ah Long, and Rawlings all headed to Singapore. What do you think the future holds for them? Are you glad the ending leaves open the possibility of a sequel?