

Discussion Guide for To Catch a Magic Thief

A note from the author: I used a specially designed AI-powered discussion guide generator (from Novel Marketing Podcast's Patron Toolbox), to create this guide, due to time constraints. I hope to revisit and revise it soon. While I do not approve of and am too proud of own my creativity—and feel it my God-given talent to use—to use AI to prompt or write stories for me, I find AI a useful tool for “busy work” tasks and marketing tasks. This leaves me with more time for writing stories! So please excuse any oddities in this. I hope to improve it later.

Welcome, fellow book lovers! If you're diving into E.J. Kitchens's enchanting tale of magic, mistaken identities, and budding romance, this guide is for you. To Catch a Magic Thief weaves a charming (and sometimes chaotic) story of a bumbling baron, a proud enchantress, and a world where magic is as tricky as a Regency dance. These questions are designed to spark lively chats—grab some tea, debate the twists, and maybe even debate if you'd trust a magical ring (or a handsome duke) in a pinch. Feel free to skip around or adapt for your group's vibe. Let's get into the magic!

Prologue and Chapters 1–5: Introductions, Enchantments, and First Sparks

These early sections set up the world of magic collectors, introduce Marcel and Gabriella's worlds, and kick off the chaos with a dash of romance and suspicion. We meet the cast, see the first magical mishaps, and wonder: Is everything at Henly Manor as perfect as it seems?

Marcel's arrival at Henly Manor throws him into a whirlwind of misunderstandings. How does his background as a baron with a hidden magical ring shape his initial interactions with the Floraison family? Do you think he could ever fit into their world?

Gabriella's life as a Floraison enchantress feels both privileged and pressured. What early clues show her independence clashing with her family's

expectations? Which "Floraison virtue" do you think she embodies most (or struggles with most)?

The prologue hints at deeper lore with magical thieves and half-magics. How does the world-building around magic feel fresh compared to classic fairy tales? Were you surprised by how casually (or dangerously) magic is treated?

Marcel and Gabriella's first encounter is anything but romantic—bandits, a missing wand, and plenty of blame. What do you think draws them together despite the rocky start? If you were Gabriella, would you trust Marcel right away?

The "A Floraison never..." rules are a fun (and frustrating) part of family dynamics. Which one seems most outdated or ironic to you, and why? How do these rules highlight the tension between tradition and personal freedom in the story?

Early on, Marcel faces prejudice from the Floraisons. Have you encountered similar biases in your own life, and how does the book handle themes of class and worth through his eyes?

Chapters 6–10: Twists, Traps, and Growing Suspicions

Here, the plot thickens with more magical incidents, budding alliances (or rivalries?), and deeper dives into characters' secrets. The stakes rise—who can you really trust when magic blurs the lines?

The explosion in the glen escalates the mystery. What do you make of Gabriella's quick suspicion of Marcel? Does her reaction feel like a natural response to stress, or is there more to her "Floraison pride" at play?

Marcel's background as an orphan with a complicated family adds layers to his character. How does his internal struggle with self-worth mirror (or contrast) Gabriella's own doubts about fitting into her perfect family?

Enter the Duke of Lofton—charming, mysterious, and full of warnings. Do you think he's a mentor figure, or is there something more enigmatic about him? How does his arrival shift the power dynamics at Henly?

The bird sketches and potion-making scenes provide lighter moments amid the chaos. What do these "everyday magic" moments reveal about Gabriella's passions? If you had a magical ability, what "mundane" thing would you use it for?

Marcel's lessons with the half-magic lore start innocently but build tension. Were you surprised by the revelations about magic thieves? How does this change your view of the "legends" the Floraisons dismiss?

The garden and stable scenes show Marcel's clumsiness leading to both humor and heartache. What's your favorite "oops" moment so far, and how does it humanize the characters?

As suspicions mount, alliances form (like with Harvey). Who do you think is the most reliable ally so far, and why? Has the book made you question anyone's motives?

Chapters 11–15: Revelations and Rising Tensions

Mid-book heats up with more magical confrontations, family secrets, and romantic tension. The lines between friend and foe blur—who's really pulling the strings?

The sorcerer's lair scene is a turning point for Gabriella. How does her confrontation with her past (and the earthquake memory) change her? Do you think she's too proud to accept help, or is it something else?

Marcel's decision to protect the Floraisons despite his own troubles shows his growth. What does his "chip on his shoulder" reveal about resilience? Have you ever felt like Marcel, fighting for self-respect?

Tyndale's backstory adds tragedy to the mix. How does his role complicate the "Magic Thief" mystery? Does his charm make him more or less suspicious to you?

The power dynamics shift with the duke's warnings and the growing threat. What do you think the book is saying about trust in a world where magic can deceive anyone?

Gabriella's experiments with power bursts are intense! If you were training in magic, which ability would you want most (or fear most), and why?

Marcel and Gabriella's banter in the glen feels like a slow-burn romance. What sparks do you see between them? Do their flaws make their connection more believable?

The chapter endings often leave you on a cliffhanger. Which one made you yell "No way!" the most, and why?

Chapters 16–20: Betrayals and High Stakes

The plot races forward with twists, betrayals, and desperate alliances. Magic, danger, and emotions collide—who will survive the night?

Tyndale's true nature shocks everyone. How did the reveal land for you? Were there hints earlier that you caught (or missed)?

Gabriella's vulnerability as a Sorcerer's Called adds emotional depth. How does her arc challenge the idea of "perfect" families like the Floraisons?

Marcel's choice to get involved despite the risks shows his heroism. What's your take on his internal conflict—does his "non-magic" status make him more or less heroic?

The lair confrontation is intense! How does the author balance action, magic, and emotion? What scene gave you the biggest adrenaline rush?

Betrayal themes run strong here. Who do you think is the most "betrayed" character, and why? Does forgiveness feel possible after such twists?

The role of family (blood and chosen) shines through. How does Marcel's found family contrast with Gabriella's birth family?

As the group faces the sorcerers, teamwork becomes key. Which alliance surprised you most, and how does it change the characters?

Marcel's "family mottos" are a recurring motif. How do they evolve, and what do they say about personal growth?

Chapters 21–25 and Epilogue: Climax, Resolutions, and New Beginnings

The finale explodes with revelations, battles, and heartfelt moments. How does everything come together (or not), and what does the future hold?

The sorcerer's lair battle is the big payoff. How does the author use magic creatively here? Which character's choice felt most satisfying (or heartbreaking)?

Gabriella's final confrontation with her fears is powerful. What do you think her journey teaches about overcoming self-doubt?

Marcel's arc ties back to his early insecurities. How does his growth culminate in the end? Does the epilogue give him the closure he deserves?

The epilogue wraps up with hope and romance. Were you satisfied with the resolutions for the main couples? What loose ends (if any) would you want explored in a sequel?

Themes of pride vs. humility run throughout. How does the book redefine "worthiness" through characters like Marcel and Gabriella?

The blend of fairy tale magic and Regency romance works well. What elements felt most magical or romantic to you?

If you could rewrite one scene with a different outcome, what would it be and why?

The story explores "legends" becoming real. Which "what if" from the book would you want to see explored next?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

Now that you've finished *To Catch a Magic Thief*, let's zoom out! These questions dig into the bigger picture—perfect for debating over tea or pie.

The book flips fairy tale tropes (like *Beauty and the Beast* meets enchantresses). Which twist did you love most, and how does it update classic elements for a modern reader?

Marcel and Gabriella's romance is enemies-to-lovers with a magical twist. What makes their relationship feel authentic? How does magic enhance (or complicate) their connection?

Prejudice against "non-magics" and half-magics mirrors real-world biases. How does the story challenge readers to rethink judgments based on status or ability?

The Floraison family's "perfect" image crumbles throughout. What does the book say about family expectations vs. personal authenticity? Which family dynamic resonated most?

Magic is both wondrous and dangerous here. How does Kitchens balance its allure and peril? If you had one magical item (like Marcel's ring), what would it be and why?

Themes of redemption and forgiveness appear in unexpected places (like with Tyndale). Do you think everyone deserves a second chance? How does the ending handle this?

The story critiques pride and class through humor and heart. What's one "Floraison virtue" you'd add to the list, and why? How does Marcel's "Ellsworth mottos" counter it?

Siblings play big roles—Gabriella's sisters, Marcel's cousins. How do they highlight themes of loyalty and rivalry? If you were writing a sequel, which sibling gets the spotlight?

The epilogue ties up with hope, but hints at future adventures. What do you think happens next for Marcel and Gabriella? Would you read a book about their "happily ever after"?

Overall, how does the book blend romance, mystery, and fantasy? What will stick with you most—the magic system, the twists, or the heartfelt moments?

Thanks for joining the discussion! If this guide sparked some magic in your book club, share your favorite moments online with #MagicThiefClub or tag the author @EJKitchens. What's your next read—more fairy tale retellings? Keep the conversation going!

