



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Letting Magic In: A Memoir of Becoming by Maia Toll

1. Maia's journey to letting magic in is one filled with courage and self-exploration. How might you describe Maia's relationship with magic at the beginning of her journey? How might you describe your own relationship with magic before and after reading *Letting Magic In*?
2. Claire brought Maia into Jan's life at a time when Maia needed solace and a roof over her head. How does Jan's death start Maia on her magical journey? How does Maia's grief open her up to connection beyond the human realm? How does this belief start Maia's first "unraveling" as she moves away from Brooklyn?
3. On the day of her birthday, which also begins her Saturn Return, Maia pulls a tarot card that gives a glimpse into her next year. Have you experienced your own Saturn Return? Would you rather have a hint at your future or go into it blind?
4. Maia grapples with religion and spirituality at the tail end of her twenties—a time when death also plays a major role in her story. How do organized religion and more personal spirituality play dual roles throughout the rest of the book? What role, if any, do both play in your life?
5. The author introduces her inner witch from time to time. How does the inner witch appear and, most importantly, under what circumstances do you think Maia's inner witch makes appearances?
6. The mind-body connection is a recurring theme in Maia's journey. For example, early on, she is told her soul is too big for her body. Later, she tests her body's instincts with poisons and herbs. In what ways do you see the author gradually grow to trust both her body and her spirit?
7. How does Maia build a community while she hunts for a sense of belonging? What role has your own community played in your journey of self-discovery?
8. The Hero's Journey is a classic literary device used to ground a story and give characters challenges to face along the way. How does Maia's story in *Letting Magic In* map onto the Hero's Journey? Who mentors Maia? How does Maia refuse the call? What magical aid helps her along the way? How does death/rebirth affect her overall transformation?
9. How does the author finally come to let magic into her life? What barriers does she break through while doing so? What moments of change do you see in Maia, and how do they relate to your own life?
10. Reflect on how the author ends her book. Do you want more? Are there any questions left unanswered?

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