A CONVERSATION WORTH HAVING

Your book club companion



The Last Witch of Sandton
A novel by Tshepo Matjila

From village poverty to Sandton's elite, Nomvula Magwaza has built a life few could imagine. Three marriages to wealthy men. Three untimely deaths. Each leaves her richer.

A South African story of ambition, power, loyalty and the price of reinvention.

Before you begin

This free companion is for readers and book club organisers. It contains discussion prompts rather than an answer key. Interpretations may differ; support your reading with moments from the novel.

Spoiler notice: discuss the questions on page 2 after members have finished the book. Agree at the start whether endings and revelations are open for discussion.

Some themes may be sensitive, including death, violence and unequal power. Let members pass on a question without explanation.

Enquiries: author@tshepomatjila.co.za

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Ten ways into the story

01 / Ambition
What does success mean to Nomvula? Where does aspiration become destructive?

02 / Reinvention
How do poverty, wealth and social status shape the choices available to her?

03 / The city
How does Johannesburg influence the story? What does Sandton represent beyond a location?

04 / Power
Who holds power in the relationships, and when does that balance shift?

05 / Tradition
How does the story place inherited knowledge and traditional medicine alongside modern wealth?

06 / Loyalty
How do you read Lindiwe's dilemma? Where would you draw the line between loyalty and complicity?

07 / Justice
How do the investigation and the desire for revenge offer different ideas of accountability?

08 / Perspective
Did your sympathy for any character change? Which scene most affected your judgement?

09 / Suspense
What did you suspect, and when? Which details changed your interpretation as you read?

10 / After the last page
What question stayed with you? If you could ask a character one thing, what would it be?

FOR THE ORGANISER

Make room for every voice

A suggested 75-minute gathering

00-10 minutes
Welcome, spoiler agreement and one-word first reactions.

10-25 minutes
Discuss ambition, reinvention and the role of the city.

25-50 minutes
Choose three questions about relationships, loyalty or justice.

50-65 minutes
Compare interpretations. Invite quieter members to contribute, with no obligation.

65-75 minutes
Share final reflections and agree how to pass the book or recommendation along.

Invite the author into the conversation

Enquire about an author Q&A or book club appearance. Include your preferred date, location or online format, group size and discussion focus. Attendance, fees and signed-copy availability are confirmed individually; this kit does not promise a booking.

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Possible questions for Tshepo
Why this story? How did you approach its South African setting? What makes a compelling turning point on the page or behind the microphone?

Buy or browse formats: books2read.com/matjilatshepo