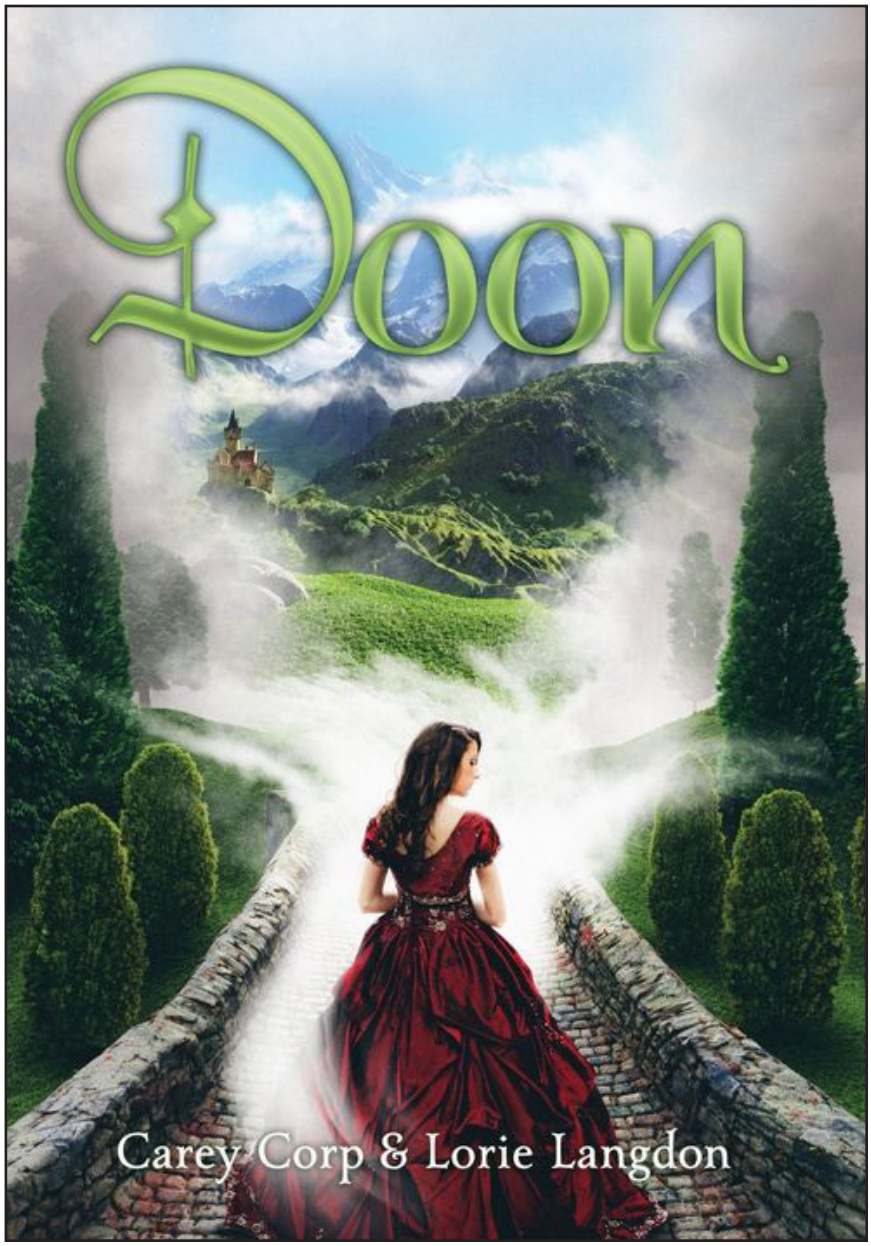
Discussion Guide



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About the Book

Veronica doesn't think she's going crazy. But why can't anyone else see the mysterious blond boy who keeps popping up wherever she goes? When her best friend, Mackenna, invites her to spend the summer in Scotland, Veronica jumps at the opportunity to leave her complicated life behind for a few months. But the Scottish countryside holds other plans. Not only has the imaginary kilted boy followed her to Alloway, she and Mackenna uncover a strange set of rings and a very unnerving letter from Mackenna's great aunt—and when the girls test the instructions Aunt Gracie left behind, they find themselves transported to a land that defies explanation.

Doon seems like a real-life fairy tale, complete with one prince who has eyes for Mackenna and another who looks suspiciously like the boy from Veronica's daydreams. But Doon has a dark underbelly as well. The two girls could have everything they've longed for... or they could end up breaking an enchantment and find themselves trapped in a world that has become a nightmare.

Group Lesson

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

– Lao Tzu

Interestingly enough, even though you might expect there to be no amenities and luxuries of today's society in the land of Doon, there are several conveniences that Mackenna and Veronica discover. Among them is running water and working toilets. They even find pizza.

There are some things that we are so used to just having that we don't even realize they may not have been a part of life for our grandparents or even our parents.

Discuss some things that kids have now that you, or even they, didn't have as small children.

What amenities do you think you would be unable to live without? Is there anything you would be willing to give up?

References:

An inventions timeline: *http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0768871.html*

Recent inventions we no longer use: *http://www.webdesignerdepot.com/2010/02/blast-from-the-past-vintage-technologies-that-we-no-longer-use/*

Discussion Questions

1) Kenna discovers an amazing secret about her aunt: that she lived in a fantasy land called Doon. What would you love to discover from a relative that passed away? Money? An adventure?

2) Doon was described as the most beautiful land you could ever imagine. It seemed that everything fell perfectly into place and was ordered and balanced even in times of turmoil. Even the people were good and kindhearted as a whole. Was Doon a fairy-tale land for you? What would be your fairy-tale? Was this the most ideal land or would you choose something different?

3) Throughout *Doon*, Veronica keeps many things a secret: she never shows Jamie the journal, she never reveals what the king tells her on his death bed, she goes off on her own to get rid of the book, never tells anyone who the witch is, and doesn't even share her visions of Jamie with her best friend. Did she do the right thing to keep those secrets? Do you think it would have helped if she had told someone what was going on earlier?

4) Veronica is a lost soul, from an unhappy family and life. She completely gives her heart to Doon and Jamie right away. Do you feel she is jumping too quickly? Why do you think she is so eager to embrace her new life in Doon?

Discussion Questions

5) Mackenna wavers between wanting to stay in Doon and allowing herself to love Duncan or going back and pursuing her lifelong dream to be an actress. Do you think you could or would ever give up your dream for love?

6) Because the people of Doon fear the witch, some of them are afraid of Veronica and Mackenna and treat them very poorly, whispering, snickering, and being rude. What can fear of the unknown do to a group of people? Can you compare how Veronica and Mackenna are treated to something in our society or in our history?

7) Kenna decides at the last minute to leave Doon, knowing that she can never return. We start to believe she is letting herself love Duncan, but then she turns and leaves him because she is afraid to give up her dreams. Is she making the right decision?

8) At the end of the book, Kenna sees a vision of her old childhood friend, and realizes it's Duncan and she has been receiving the Calling for years. Supposedly she will never be able to get back into Doon. What do you think will happen next?

About the Authors

Carey Corp wrote her first book, a brilliant retelling of Star Wars, at the prodigious age of seven. Since then, her love affair of reinvention has continued to run amuck. Writing both stories for young adults and literary fiction, she begins each morning consuming copious amounts of coffee while weaving stories that capture her exhaustive imagination. She harbors a voracious passion (in no consistent order) for mohawks, Italy, musical theater, chocolate, and Jane Austen.

Her debut novel for teens, THE HALO CHRONICLES: THE GUARDIAN, earned her national recognition as 2010 Golden Heart finalist for best young adult fiction.

Lorie Langdon has wanted to write her own novels since she was a wee girl reading every Judy Blume book she could get her hands on. So a few years ago, she left her thriving corporate career to satisfy the voices in her head. Now as a full-time author and stay-at-home mom, she spends her summers editing poolside while dodging automatic water-gun fire, and the rest of the year tucked into her cozy office, Havanese puppy by her side, working to translate her effusive imagination into the written word.

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