

LIZ PARKER

WITCHES  
*of*  
HONEYSUCKLE  
HOUSE



BOOK CLUB KIT

# A NOTE FROM AUTHOR LIZ PARKER

Dear Readers,

I'm so excited you've selected *Witches of Honeysuckle House* for your next book club read! Since publishing my first novel, I've loved hearing that book clubs are reading my books. With this book taking place—in part—in a bookstore, it only seems right for it to be enjoyed by a book club (even if yours doesn't meet in a bookstore).

There is so much to this book. It has love. It has heartache. It has loss. It has hope. There's a living house and a magical bookstore and a cat! It's a story of friendship and family. It's a look at the places we call home. It's a reclamation of the things that might seek to destroy us. And it's an exploration of the impacts of generational trauma—a window into how healing that trauma in ourselves can create a better world for the next generation.

It's also a story of sisterhood. It explores what it means to be a sister, what it means to disagree with your sister, and what sisters mean to each other. For those of you with sisters, I hope you find yourself in these pages. For those of you with estranged sisters, my heart is with you.

Like most of my work, *Witches of Honeysuckle House* is a book about healing from the pain our family has caused us. For me, writing is one part storytelling and one part alchemizing my experiences (particularly the traumatic ones) into something new and hopeful—a part of my healing process, and something that I hope can provide healing to those who read it.

With love and a little bit of magic,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'S' and 'P' that are interconnected. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

*Witches of Honeysuckle House* includes six points of view that can be broken into three pairs Florence and Evie; Regina and Violet; Clara and Honeysuckle House. How do each set of viewpoints work together to provide a complete picture of the Caldwell family story?

2

Research suggests that intergenerational trauma can be passed down as far as four generations, with some theories indicating trauma can affect a person's DNA and influence the health of future generations. How do we see the Caldwell family trauma passing from generation to generation in *Witches of Honeysuckle House*? Has your family experienced trauma? If so, how have you seen that passed down through the generations?

3

Clara is the youngest Caldwell witch and the only one not wrapped up in the family curse. Though her mother and her aunt are the ones trying to break the curse, ultimately Clara is the only one who can cast the spell. How do you think this ties into the larger themes of generational trauma in the novel?

4

Florence and Violet are both the eldest sisters in their families, while Regina and Evie are the youngest sisters. How do their roles as eldest versus youngest impact their relationships with each other?



Linda Caldwell had the opportunity to end the curse but instead chose to continue it on to the next generation. Why do you think this is? What would you have done in the same situation?



*Witches of Honeysuckle House* explores the idea of home. What makes a place a home? What happens when we can no longer return home?



Tarot cards play an important role in the novel, helping guide the witches' paths while also serving as part of the book's structure. The primary cards include: the hermit, the lovers, the magician, the five of cups, the ace of swords, the three of swords, the seven of swords, the four of wands, the tower, the two of cups, death, temperance reversed, and the ten of cups. How did some or all of these cards play out thematically in the novel?



When Florence and Evie finally uncover the truth behind the family curse, they learn about Regina's siphoning spell. How does this idea of siphoning another witch's magic fit into the overall themes of trauma and the cycle of abuse?



In addition to family of origin, the book has themes of found family and falling in love. How do Owen and Angela play into both Florence and Evie's healing journeys?

# AUTHOR Q & A



## **What inspired you to write *Witches of Honeysuckle House*?**

This book started with the idea of home. As someone with c-PTSD, I grew up with a fraught idea of home, and to this day I still have nightmares about my childhood home. When exploring the idea for this book, Florence came to me first, and with her, this idea that for Florence, home wasn't a house, and it certainly wasn't her childhood home. Evie came next and with her, a love for that same childhood home. That then led me to the question: Why would two sisters view their childhood home so differently and what would bring them back together in that place?



## **How did you come up with the idea for the sentient house?**

As a witch, I tend to feel that the places we inhabit might be alive themselves in some way. When I was first brainstorming this novel, I was in the process of selling my house. As I was saying goodbye, I thought of the people that came before me and the people that might come after me—the memories that fill up a space. That led me to the idea of how magic, too, might fill a space and what effect it would have. Could it bring a building to life?



## **Are there any moments from this novel that you found particularly challenging to write?**

There are two scenes that took me probably two weeks each to write. One is when Florence attempts to drive back to Honeysuckle House on her own and is overcome by a PTSD-induced panic attack. This pulls from my own experiences with my diagnoses. It was at once cathartic to write and also deeply challenging to put myself into the mental state to put it on paper and accurately capture that experience. Then there is a scene from Florence and Evie's childhood that is essential to understanding the things they went through as daughters of an abusive mother. It was very challenging to put on paper.



## **How did your own practice as a witch play into the magic used in the novel?**

I like to incorporate real, every-day magic into the magic systems in my stories. For this book, that was candle magic and tarot, two rituals that are very much a part of my life. I read tarot almost daily and have been known to give readings to my friends. Candle magic is something I turn to on special occasions—the solstices, the equinoxes, or when I really need clarity on something.



## **The tower card comes up multiple times in the book. What are your feelings on drawing the tower card in tarot?**

I might be in the minority here, but I actually love the tower. My go-to deck is The Gentle Tarot, and the illustration for the tower is very soft for such a powerful card. I like to think of it less as a card of impending disaster and more as a card that gives us the chance for big change.

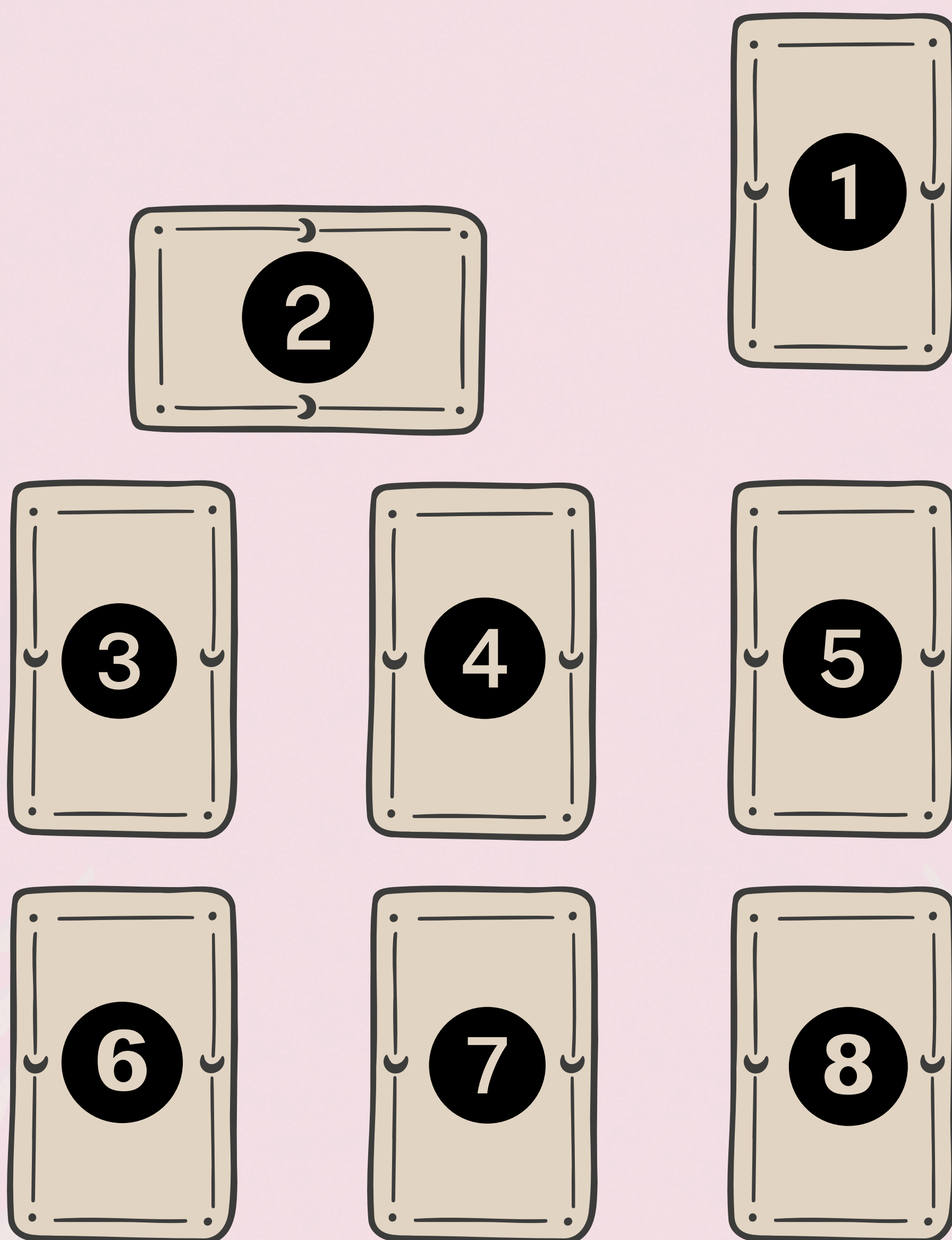


## **Why does sisterhood play such an important role in this story?**

I have wanted to write a sister book for years. Being an older sister in a broken family, my own relationship with sisterhood has shaped the way I see the world and myself. I wanted to explore my feelings around sisterhood, to put myself in the mind of a younger sister, and to imagine a healed future for myself as much as my characters. At first, I thought this would just be a book about Florence and Evie, but then Regina and Violet demanded their story be told as well, which taught me even more about sisterhood than I, as a sister, thought I knew going into this book.

# HEALING JOURNEY TAROT SPREAD

This simple tarot spread is meant to provide a gentle look into your own healing journey. It is based lightly on the traditional Celtic Cross spread, though modified significantly and put in the shape of a house.



# HEALING JOURNEY TAROT SPREAD

1. Represents you in the spread.
2. What do you need healing from?
3. Who or what do you need to release?
4. Who or what can help you on your journey to healing?
5. What is clouding the way you're viewing your current situation?
6. What aren't you aware of about your wounds?
7. What lessons have you already learned that can help you heal?
8. What does the future hold for you as continue on your healing journey?

# A GUIDE TO CANDLE COLORS



**White:**  
General power, healing, truth, divination, peace



**Pink:**  
Love, self-love, friendship, kindness



**Orange:**  
Passion, courage, strength, willpower, desire



**Red:**  
Passion, courage, strength, willpower, desire



**Gold:**  
Abundance, ambitions, money, happiness, creativity



**Blue:**  
Healing, inner peace, forgiveness, balance, clarity, truth



**Green:**  
Prosperity, success, growth, abundance, good luck, money



**Purple:**  
Psychic energy, spirituality, wisdom, intuition



**Black:**  
Protection, releasing negative energy



**Yellow:**  
New ideas, creativity, positivity, confidence, good luck



**Brown:**  
Financial success, material abundance, help with contracts and legal matters, security, stability, home

# THE HONEYSUCKLE HOUSE PLAYLIST

Cinnamon - Hayley Williams

As It Was - Hozier

Always Hurt - Lande Hekt

Deep End - Holly Humberstone

Living Proof - The War on Drugs

Protector - Beyonce, Rumi Carter

Full machine - Gracie Abrams

Which Witch - Florence + The Machine

Hello My Old Heart - The Oh Hellos

A Dangerous Thing - AURORA

Secrets - Cellar Door - Radical Face

the grudge - Olivia Rodrigo

Stubborn Love - The Lumineers

Crimson - Skott

Kill Me - Hayely Williams



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