



# MOTHERS of MAGIC

Summoning  
the Wisdom of  
Our Ancestors

by PERDITA FINN, co-Founder of the Way of the Rose

## ❧ A Reading Group Guide to *MOTHERS OF MAGIC* ❧

*Mothers of Magic* celebrates the power of circles—circles of grandmothers, mothers, and friends—and invites collaborative storytelling. At the end of each of the three parts are invitations for the reader to explore the material in greater personal depth. The reflection prompts and exercises offered there could also be done together by a book club. Before diving into them, here are a few simple suggestions to get started with the book:

1. What if no one had to read the book before book club gathered? Many would experience this as a relief, right? When you and your friends are together, let someone read aloud “The Bodies of Our Mothers” that begins on page ix.
2. “The Bodies of Our Mothers” is an invitation for everyone to think about their own mothers. After the passage has been read, let participants share about the bodies of their mothers. What did they look like? Their hair and hands, eyes and expressions? Try not to talk about the complexity of your relationships with your mothers—but simply to describe them, as if you were showing your friends a photograph. What did they look like? Smell like? Sound like?
3. “If your mother was an animal, and I tell you this, she was . . .” Repeat this line from the passage read above and imagine what kind of animal your mother would be. There are no wrong answers! Let yourself be silly, playful, and creative. When everyone is done sharing you may want to read others’ answers to that same question that appear on pages 52–54 of the book.
4. Call in the animal mothers you need right now in your life. Who are they? What will they offer to you? What if you could have nine animal mothers circling you and protecting you and nourishing you? If your book club enjoys creative projects, you might make a collaborative collage or your own oracle deck to use together based on these animal mothers.

By engaging with this introductory material before reading the entire book, participants may feel more excited to read *Mothers of Magic* together and explore the invitations that follow as a group.

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