***MR. FLOOD’S LAST RESORT* by Jess Kidd**

MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

(in person and via Zoom) 1:30 PM or 7:00 PM

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **Is Mr. Flood a good man? How did your perception of him change over the course of the novel?**
2. **The novel is called *Mr. Flood’s Last Resort*, but Maud is the narrator. Do you see this story as belonging more to one character than the other? Who is our hero, or heroine?**
3. **Most of the novel is set at Bridlemere, Mr. Flood’s estate. From a craft perspective, what do you think is difficult or useful about setting a novel in a confined space like that? Did the author do anything to extend the canvas, the stage on which the action takes place?**
4. **What purpose do the flashbacks in the novel serve? Why do you suppose they don’t open with illustrations like the other chapters?**
5. **What roles do storytelling and folklore play in the story? How does Irish heritage shape Maud’s and Mr. Flood’s personalities, and their relationship to one another?**
6. **Renata Sparks, Maud’s neighbor, is agoraphobic. Why do you think the author chose to subject Renata to this particular phobia? How does it inform her portrayal and play into the novel’s themes?**
7. **How would you characterize the tone of the novel? What about the language?**
8. **What role do the patron saints play in the novel? How does the author’s choice to anthropomorphize them affect your perception of the saints? Did you have a favorite one?**
9. **As readers, we get to know Mr. Flood gradually, with his past being revealed piece by piece. What surprised you most about Mr. Flood’s past?**
10. **Why do you think Maud falls for “Sam Hebden”? Did you find their courtship persuasive, realistic?**
11. **Jess Kidd’s novels cross genres, blending light and darkness, whimsy and mystery, the real and the supernatural. If you had to sum up this book in one line, how would you describe it?**
12. **The author wrote this novel in the wake of her father’s death and has said that it was her way of “exploring loss, grief, regret, and the mechanisms we develop for dealing with these emotions.” Where do you see evidence of this in the story? What are some of the coping mechanisms she might be referring to?**
13. **After intruders break into Renata’s apartment, Maud finds her friend in the bathroom in a terrible state and thinks, “There are no saints for this.” In a novel full of religious motifs and themes, how do you interpret a line like this?**
14. **Overall, do you find the novel hopeful? Why or why not?**

**FROM:** **https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Mr-Floods-Last-Resort/Jess-Kidd/9781501180644**

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