

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read the novel *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Alice Network* Kate Quinn called
“easily one of the best novels
I have read all year!”

A critically acclaimed, multi-layered romance
set in the perilous days of World Wars I and II,
where gods hold the fates—and the hearts—of
four mortals in their hands.



They are Hazel, James, Aubrey, and Colette. A classical pianist from London, a British would-be architect turned soldier, a Harlem-born ragtime genius in the U.S. Army, and a Belgian orphan with a gorgeous voice and a devastating past. Their story, as told by goddess Aphrodite, who must spin the tale or face judgment on Mount Olympus, and by the gods Ares, Apollo, and Hades, is filled with hope and heartbreak, prejudice and passion, and reveals that, though War is a formidable force, it's no match for the transcendent power of Love.

Hailed by critics, *Lovely War* has received seven starred reviews and is an indie bestseller. Author Julie Berry has been called “a modern master of historical fiction” by *Bookpage* and “a celestially inspired storyteller” by the *New York Times*. *Lovely War* is truly her masterwork.

“Julie Berry pens an utter delight in *Lovely War*, an effervescent confection of a novel filled with humor, tragedy, romance, and myth.”

—KATE QUINN, NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
OF THE ALICE NETWORK

“This fascinating, gorgeously written novel of World War I will grip you and remind you that the greatest danger is closing our hearts to love.”

—NANCY WERLIN, NATIONAL BOOK AWARD HONOREE
AND NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

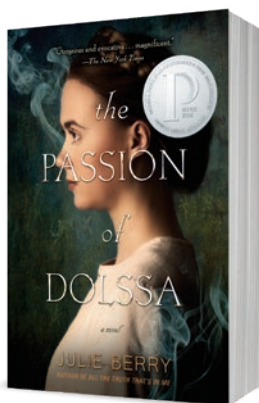
“Julie Berry writes the past as if she lived it.”
—JENNIFER DONNELLY, NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think Berry intends you to think about when you see the novel's title? In what ways can we consider war to be lovely? Can love be characterized as some kind of war?
2. How does using an impromptu trial help give meaning to the stories of Hazel, James, Aubrey, and Colette in 1918? Would anything be lost or gained by removing the mythological narrators?
3. James and Hazel primarily know each other through the exchange of letters. How do you think this affects their relationship as the story progresses?
4. How does the role of music compare in the characterizations of Hazel and Aubrey?
5. As Hades describes the fates of Colette's family in the razing of Dinant, he notes that "Colette the child died that day." (page 121). How does the experience shape Colette's character? How do the horrific deaths of people close to them, and their coping efforts, shape the characters of Colette, Aubrey, and James?
6. Hephaestus is a brilliant creator, bearing what his fellow gods consider to be grotesque physical deformities, who, for good or ill, is eternally wed to the embodiment of beauty. Which of the story's characters do you think best parallels Hephaestus and why?

7. Aphrodite approaches her story as one of love conquering long odds: war, racism, cultural differences, wounds, and so forth. Do you think the odds stacked against Hazel and James are greater than those against Aubrey and Colette? How about those facing Hephaestus and Aphrodite, or Aphrodite and Ares?
8. Think about Hades's role in the story: what does his narration do for the story? How does he function as an actor within it? How does he relate to his fellow Olympians?
9. James is the only one of the four protagonists who has no "Apollonian story"—that is, he's not a musical artist. What do you consider to be his "art"? Which Olympian matches up with him the best, and why?
10. One of the tragic realities of war is its capacity to dehumanize those involved in it, and how often that can be an asset to survival. What are some of the ways in which you see the characters in the story being dehumanized in the Great War and surviving its horrors because of it? How do they fight to hold onto their humanity? Do you see this reflected in the Olympian narrative?
11. Early in the novel, Hazel expresses a deep concern that James will be changed by the war. Whom among the four protagonists do you see as being the most changed by the war: Hazel, James, Aubrey, or Colette? Would you argue that some of the changes are for the better?

ALSO
BY JULIE
BERRY



A PRINTZ HONOR BOOK

Medieval France: Dolssa is an upper-crust city girl with a secret lover and an uncanny gift. Branded a heretic, she's on the run from the friar who condemned her mother to death by fire and wants Dolssa executed, too. Botille is a matchmaker and a tavern-keeper, struggling to keep herself and her sisters on the right side of the law in their seaside town of Bajas. Their lives collide when Botille rescues a dying Dolssa and agrees to conceal her in the tavern. Aided by her sisters and Symo, her surly but loyal neighbor, Botille nurses Dolssa back to health and hides her from her pursuers. But all of Botille's tricks, tales, and cleverness can't protect them forever, and when the full wrath of the Church bears down upon Bajas, Dolssa's passion and Botille's good intentions could destroy the entire village.

5 STARRED REVIEWS!



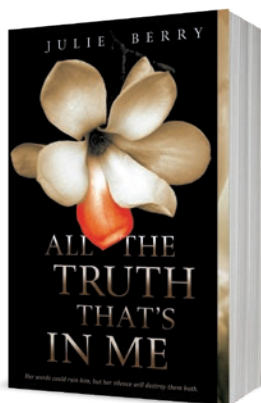
“Gorgeous and evocative . . . magnificent.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Julie Berry’s sweeping tapestry of friendship and belief is both epic and intimate, both sweet and painful.”

—ELIZABETH WEIN, AUTHOR OF CODE NAME VERITY AND
ROSE UNDER FIRE

ALSO
BY JULIE
BERRY



A mesmerizing story about fear, love, and the power of a young woman's voice.

Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared from their small town of Roswell Station. Two years ago, only Judith returned, permanently mutilated, and is now reviled and ignored by those who were once her friends and family. Unable to speak, Judith lives like a ghost in her own home, silently pouring out her thoughts to the boy who's owned her heart as long as she can remember—even if he doesn't know it—her childhood friend Lucas. But when Roswell Station is attacked, long-buried secrets come to light, and Judith is forced to choose: continue to live in silence, or recover her voice, even if it means changing her world, and the lives around her, forever.

5 STARRED REVIEWS!



“All the Truth That's in Me is that rare magical thing—a beautiful love story told in spare, riveting prose.”

—THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF BOOKS

“The love story and the mystery . . . are mesmerizing. Berry's language undulates and flows . . . Worthy of multiple reads.”

—THE BOSTON GLOBE



JULIE BERRY

is the author of the 2017 Printz Honor and *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize shortlisted novel *The Passion of Dolssa*, the Carnegie and Edgar shortlisted *All the Truth That's in Me*, and many other acclaimed middle grade novels and picture books. She holds a BS from Rensselaer in communication and an MFA from Vermont College. She lives in Southern California with her family.

