**Book Club Guide: The Legend of Thornewood Manor by Dita Dow**

Welcome to your book club discussion of “The Legend of Thornewood Manor” by Dita Dow! This mysterious and eerie tale is sure to spark a lively conversation among your book club members. To enhance your discussion, here’s a book club guide with some discussion questions and topics to explore:

**1. Initial Impressions**

* Begin your discussion by asking each member to share their initial impressions of the story. What were their first thoughts and feelings when they read the opening paragraphs?

**2. Setting and Atmosphere**

* The story’s setting and atmosphere play a significant role in creating a sense of foreboding and mystery. Discuss how the author effectively uses descriptive language to establish the eerie atmosphere. How did the mist, Thornewood Manor, and the town contribute to the overall mood of the story?

**3. Characters**

* Explore the characters in the story. What do we know about Jefferson Thornewood? How does the author create a sense of mystery and danger surrounding him? Are there any characters you found particularly compelling or relatable?

**4. Themes**

* The story touches on themes of curiosity, the unknown, and the consequences of trespassing into the supernatural. What do you think the author is trying to convey about these themes? How do the actions of the teenagers reflect these themes?

**5. Foreshadowing and Suspense**

* Discuss the elements of foreshadowing and suspense in the story. Were there moments where you anticipated what might happen next? How did the author build tension throughout the narrative?

**6. The Legend**

* The shop owner tells a legend about Thornewood Manor at the beginning of the story. How does this legend impact your interpretation of the events that unfold later on? Do you think legends and folklore can influence a community’s beliefs and actions?

**7. Supernatural Elements**

* Explore the supernatural elements in the story, such as the mist, the mysterious laughter, and the appearance of Jefferson Thornewood. How did these elements contribute to the sense of the unknown and the eerie atmosphere?

**8. Endings and Ambiguity**

* Discuss the ending of the story, where Mark and Char’s fate is left ambiguous. How did the ending make you feel? Did you expect a different resolution? What do you think happened to them?

**9. Symbolism**

* Consider any symbolic elements in the story. For example, what might the mist symbolize? How about the significance of the number 13?

**10. Reader Reactions** - Share your personal reactions to the story. Were there moments that genuinely frightened or surprised you? What emotions did you experience while reading?

**11. Comparisons and References** - If any members have read other works of supernatural or horror fiction, consider discussing how “The Legend of Thornewood Manor” compares to those stories. Are there any other books or authors you would liken this story to?

**12. Author’s Style** - Take a moment to appreciate the author’s writing style. Did you find it engaging and well-suited to the genre? Were there any specific passages or descriptions that stood out to you?

**13. Final Thoughts** - Wrap up your discussion by sharing your overall impressions of the story. Would you recommend it to others? What lingering questions or thoughts do you have after reading “The Legend of Thornewood Manor”?

Remember that different members may have varying interpretations and reactions to the story, making for a rich and engaging book club discussion. Enjoy exploring the mysteries of Thornewood Manor with your fellow readers!