

FOLGER BOOK CLUB



Discussion Questions: *A Haunting on the Hill*

Folger Book Club—October 2025

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. Were you familiar with *The Haunting of Hill House* before reading this book? If so, do you think this was a worthy follow-up? If not, do you feel you were missing out or did this novel hold up on its own?
3. “When you’re confronted with something deeply strange or obviously implausible in a book or movie or painting, you know it means something. It’s a symbol, a clue. A warning.” (pg 16). Is that true in the case of the hare? What is its message?
4. How does time function in this novel?
5. Had you heard of *The Witch of Edmonton* before reading this book? Why do you think it's not more well known today? Why do you think Hill chose this play and not one by Shakespeare?
6. Holly chooses to adapt *Witch*, which she finds “a misogynistic patchwork of Jacobean melodrama.” What is the value in adaptation versus original creation? What works would you like to see adapted?
7. Ainsley says Hill House plays to people’s expectations (page 54). What are Holly’s expectations? Are they realized? What energies are already present in Holly’s life for the house to respond to? Later, Nisa misquotes Ainsley and says it plays to people’s strengths. What is important about the difference? Which do you think is more true?
8. There is clearly a history of people staying at Hill House and being able to escape the experience. Why do you think Holly’s group cannot?
9. What do you make of the narrative switches between characters?
10. Many haunted house stories include an inciting incident that accounts for the house’s malevolence. Were you expecting the same from Hill House? If you were to create its origin story, what would you focus on?