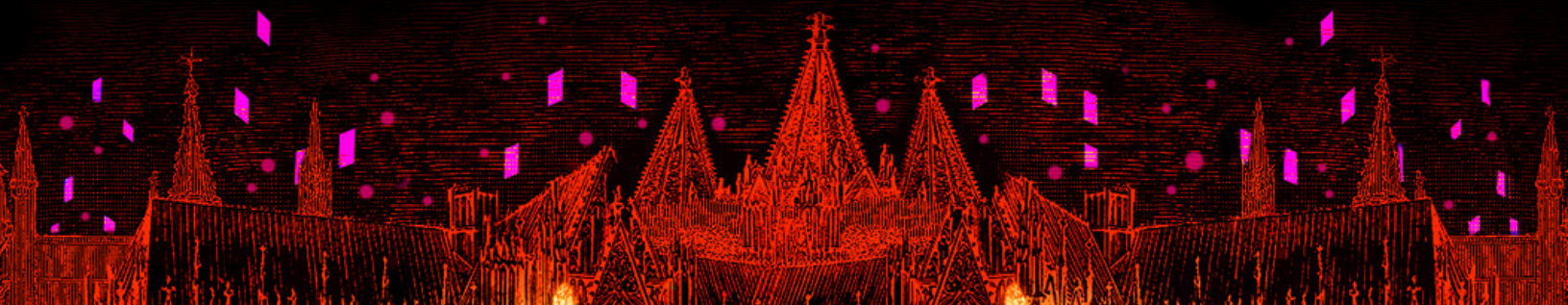


THE FOX HUNT BOOK CLUB KIT



Dear reader—

One night at Oxford University, some years ago, a group of students held a human fox hunt. The male students styled themselves as hunters, chasing female students as foxes through the city. Hearing the story from a friend, the image struck me. Fox hunting, in Britain, has a special association with those who inherit their power. With privilege left unchecked for so long, it believes it has the right to destroy all in its path. That was the start of *The Fox Hunt* for me.

I'd loved my own time at Cambridge University, Oxford's twin in wealth and prestige, but it left questions that lingered long into adulthood. As this story took shape, those questions wove themselves into it: about the enduring role of class in the student body, about where the powerful political leaders in the country have come from and how they ended up receiving that power. Those invisible systems channeling power – like magic, I thought. And *The Fox Hunt* came to life.

Because fantasy stories are ways to understand our world and our choices within it. And so, *The Fox Hunt* also grew from tales of transformation I've always loved. Ovid's 'Metamorphoses', where changes of form – woman to tree, man to stag – represent reactions to a clash with power: trauma, defiance, escape. Better still, Rosalind in 'As You Like It' or 'The Tiger's Bride' by Angela Carter: heroines who cast off their expected form to find their true selves, with the power and freedom to take their heart's desire.

That was a story I wanted to tell. What would it be like to lose the constraints of a smooth and hairless skin? To forget the meaning of 'nice' and 'well behaved'? Would my heroine find strength in savagery, and beauty in the beastly? And could I help readers see their own beauty, power, and strength through the turns of her tale*?

I do hope so. Wishing you happy reading,

*(tail?)

Caitlin Breeze

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY



“Human scholars described a power that ‘hung like a fog in the air’ around the University. Mortals back then claimed to see strange sights. Supernatural hazes over buildings. Creatures in the shadows.”

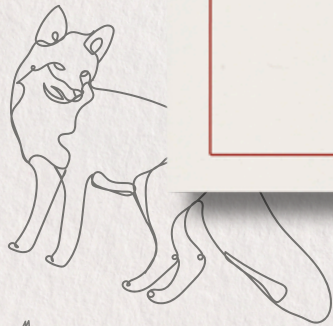


THE TURNBULL SOCIETY

INVITES

Emma Curran

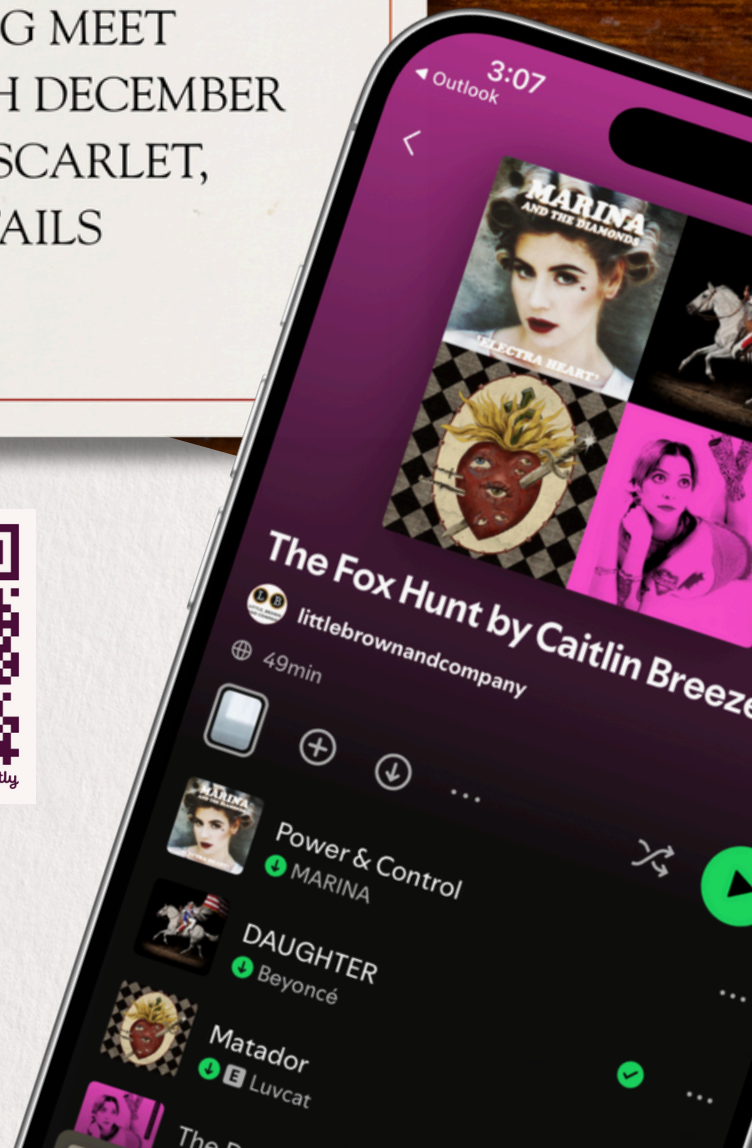
TO AN OPENING MEET
7PM THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER
GENTLEMEN IN SCARLET,
LADIES IN TAILS



playlist



"I got my fingers laced together
and I made a little prison
And I'm locking up everyone
who ever laid a finger on me"
- "Yellow Flicker Beat," Lorde



FIREFLY BRANDY

(non-alcoholic)

A spiced fox maiden favourite to share on a cozy night at the House of Foxes

To serve 1:

½ cup apple juice

¾ cup ginger beer

1 tsp ground cinnamon

To serve 4:

2 cups apple juice

2 ½ cups ginger beer

1 tbsp ground cinnamon

For garnish:

Star anise

1 apple, thinly sliced

1 cinnamon stick per drink

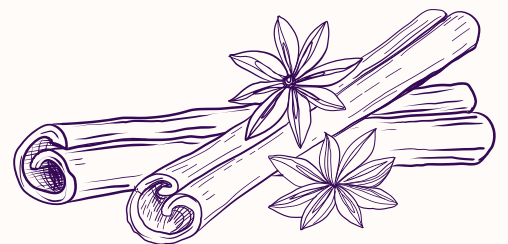
Fresh thyme

Optional extras:

- *For an extra kick, add a generous splash of ginger juice (either home-juiced from fresh ginger root, or you can use a store-bought ginger shot) to the apple and ginger beer mix*
- *For a further touch of fox maiden sparkle, you could dust the surface of each drink with edible golden glitter just before serving*

How to make:

- 1. Briskly stir together the ginger beer, apple juice and cinnamon in a jug*
- 2. Prepare your glasses! Add ice cubes, a slice or two of apple and a cinnamon stick to each glass*
- 3. Pour the cocktail mix into each of the glasses, use the cinnamon stick to swirl and stir*
- 4. Garnish each glass with star anise and a sprig of fresh thyme, then serve!*



READING GROUP GUIDE

Warning: these questions contain spoilers for *The Fox Hunt*.

1

We open Emma's story with the flood:

"There had never been such a flood. Not in living memory, at least. It came up silently. A dark tide clawed from the river, finger by finger, into the sleeping city."

Why do you think the author chose to start here? What significance does the flood play in *The Fox Hunt* overall?

2

We hear about Jasper long before we meet him. How did the rumors and anticipation color your first impression of Jasper? How did they color Emma's view of him?

3

How does setting impact your understanding of the story and characters? Why might the author have chosen to tell this tale at a prestigious English university?

4

What role does appearance play in *The Fox Hunt*? Consider the various changes to Emma's appearance, both purposeful and accidental—from wearing Helena's dresses to Turnbull events, to her fox transformation, to cloaking herself in shadows as a fox maiden.

5

How are the various characters in *The Fox Hunt* impacted by their families, biological or otherwise?

READING GROUP GUIDE

Warning: these questions contain spoilers for *The Fox Hunt*.

- 6 Discuss the relationship between magic and power—two intangible things that touch every part of *The Fox Hunt*. How do they interact throughout Emma's story?
- 7 Ultimately, only Richard knew what was in store for Emma on the night of the fox hunt. Reread chapter 15: does the hunt feel less frightening with this knowledge? Do the Turnbulls, collectively, seem less culpable for what happens to Emma? Why or why not?
- 8 Compare the Beasts' Ball to the night Emma met Jasper and the Turnbulls. How does each party change Emma's life? How did she herself change between those nights?
- 9 What is the significance of Emma's failed attempt out of the Night City? What parallels do you see between Emma's entrance into the Night City and her journey out of it?
- 10 In the final confrontation between Emma and Richard, who do you see as the hunter vs. the hunted?



THANK YOU FOR READING
THE
FOX HUNT

Share, review, and tag us! @littlebrown | @caitlinbreezewrites