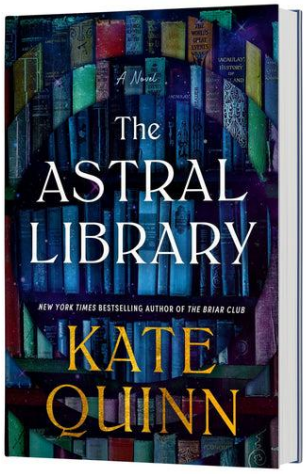


The Astral Library

William Morrow

By Kate Quinn
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"If you've ever wished to tumble straight into your favorite novel, here's your chance. With a cheeky heroine you'll root for from page one, this is bound to be one of the biggest books of the year." - **Sarah Penner, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Amalfi Curse***

From *New York Times* bestselling author Kate Quinn comes a gorgeously written fantastical adventure which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book? Welcome to the Astral Library, where books are not just objects, but doors to new worlds, new lives, and new futures.

Alexandria "Alix" Watson has learned one lesson from her barren childhood in the foster-care system: unlike people, books will never let you down. Working three dead-end jobs to make ends meet and knowing college is a pipe dream, Alix takes nightly refuge in the high-vaulted reading room at the Boston Public Library, escaping into her favorite fantasy novels and dreaming of far-off lands. Until the day she stumbles through a hidden door and meets the Librarian: the ageless, acerbic guardian of a hidden library where the desperate and the lost escape to new lives…inside their favorite books.

The Librarian takes a dazzled Alix under her wing, but before she can escape into the pages of her new life, a shadowy enemy emerges to threaten everyone the Astral Library has ever helped protect. Aided by a dashing costume-shop owner, Alix and the Librarian flee through the Regency drawing rooms of Jane Austen to the back alleys of *Sherlock Holmes* and the champagne-soaked parties of *The Great Gatsby* as danger draws inexorably closer. But who does their enemy really wish to destroy—Alix, the Librarian, or the Library itself?

Questions for Discussion

1. The Astral Library allows characters to live inside books. How does this concept reflect the transformative power of stories in our own lives? Which book would you choose to live in, and why?

2. Alix Watson evolves from a struggling young woman to a determined defender of the Astral Library. What key moments in the story contribute to her growth, and how do her relationships shape her journey?

3. The Astral Library serves as a sanctuary for those seeking refuge. How does the novel explore the balance between escapism and confronting real-world challenges? Do you think Alix finds the right balance?

4. The novel takes readers through various famous literary worlds, from Sherlock Holmes's Victorian London to The Great Gatsby's legendary parties. How do these settings enhance the story's themes and Alix's journey? Which literary world did you find most compelling?

5. The Librarian and Alix face moral dilemmas in protecting the Library and its patrons. How does the novel address themes of authority, control, and resistance? What parallels can you draw to real-world issues?