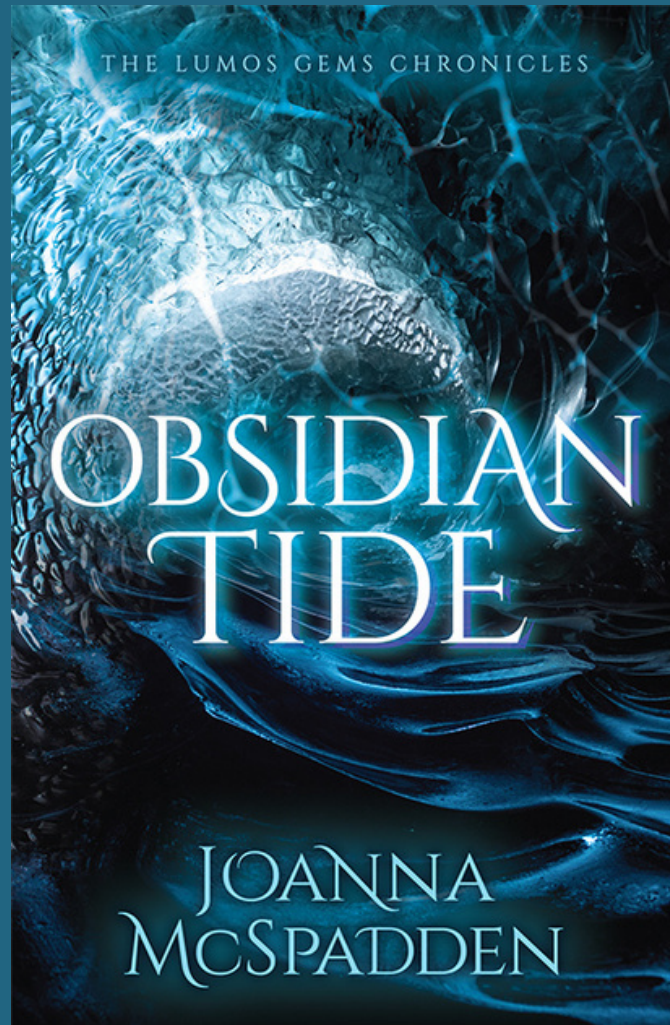




# Book Club Kit



“A rich and detailed world with a fresh twist, Obsidian Tide is a journey that will leave you wanting more.”

—Susan Shepard, Author of The Curse of the Winter Lord


# About JoAnna McSpadden





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JoAnna McSpadden is a software developer by day and high fantasy writer by night – giving her a truly eclectic perspective of the world around us. She is a lifelong writer, creative adventurer, bibliophile, and avid fantasy board game enthusiast. When she’s not programming e-commerce websites for major household brands, she’s writing illustrative literary works of art that inspire readers to dream, embrace their authenticity, and defy the odds to go after whatever it is that they desire – even if it goes against the status quo. JoAnna lives in Kansas City with her husband.

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# Obsidian Tide

Set in the splendor of the Victorian Age and mixed with the intrigue of a classic fantasy quest – Obsidian Tide chronicles the epic quest of Princess Katerina, Liam – the Akarian Emperor’s outcast nephew, and Anthony – Liam’s brother and the Emperor’s chosen heir to retrieve a magical relic. The Healing Stone is one of four long lost magical stones. It is known to contain the powers needed to cure any disease and when the threat of a terrible disease, known as The Obsidian Streaks, hits too close to home, the Healing Stone soon becomes Akaria’s only hope. Readers will follow the daring trio of the Akarian Empire royalty as they’re forced into societal roles that go against what they desire.

The trio embarks on a harrowing quest to find the dragon-protected Healing Stone that promises to save many lives from the grip of the Obsidian Streaks. Along their journey – through triumphs, perils, and major setbacks – the trio must navigate the world, learning more about themselves all the while being the last line of hope to preserve the Akarian Empire’s storied legacy. The journey forces the characters to set aside who they were always told to be, in order to embrace who they truly are.

“I see the hunger in your eyes, I know it’s in your blood to practice this magic. You can’t escape this power as easily as you might think.”

# Discussion Questions

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- What was your favorite part of the book?
- The first chapter of a book is critical in setting up the tone of the book and hooking readers into reading more. Did the first chapter accomplish this for you? What about the first chapter did you like or dislike?
- Would you want to visit the world of Obsidian Tide?
- Obsidian Tide is told in third person from the perspectives of Katerina and Liam. How would the story be different if another character was telling it? Do you think changing the point of view would make the story better or worse? Why?
- What did you think of the pacing of the book? Did it hold your interest throughout? Were there slow parts or parts that went too fast?
- Did you notice any uses of symbolism throughout the book? If so, what was the purpose of the symbolism? What do you think the author was trying to convey?
- As with a lot of fantasy novels, things are not always quite as they seem. What was the biggest surprise in the book you didn't see coming (or maybe you did)?
- In the book, Liam and Katerina both struggle with the heavy expectations that have been placed on them. When have you struggled with heavy expectations in your life?
- Did you relate to any of the characters more than the others? If so, which one?
- If you were in Liam's position and you had to go on a dangerous mission to save a loved one, would you?
- Choose a POV character: Liam or Katerina. In your opinion, in what ways does he/she change and grow through the course of Obsidian Tide? What do you admire most about him/her?
- How does Katerina feel about her power? How do her feelings change throughout the book?
- Alexander tells Katerina: "I believe there is only one thing in the entire world that can heal our people of the Obsidian Streaks. And that thing is protected by powerful magic. Powerful magic that only a Volkev witch can break through." If you had the potential to magically make that big of an impact on the world, would you take it?
- There are two main magic systems present in Obsidian Tide: the magic that came from the Well in Isavaria and the magic that came from the Tree in Elusira. Which power would you want?
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# Discussion Questions

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- The people of Akaria believe that the Alumenos were granted elemental magic from their gods. Which elemental power would you want to have?
- Liam is in a relationship with a girl named Caroline. What did you think of their relationship?
- Katerina is set to marry to Anthony and starts to form a connection with him throughout the book. What did you think of this connection throughout the book?
- Liam is often frustrated with his brother. Can you relate to his experiences with his brother Anthony?
- If you were making a movie of the book, who would you cast?
- There are many complex relationships among the characters of Obsidian Tide. Consider whose relationship seemed most similar to one of your own personal relationships. What about it reminded you of your experiences?
- The world of Obsidian Tide has similarities with our own world and other fantasy worlds. What does Obsidian Tide's world have in common with other examples and how does it differ? What do you believe to be the benefits of reading and studying complex created worlds and what can we learn about our own world by doing so?
- Using the phrase, "This is a story about," finish the sentence that describes Obsidian Tide.
- If you were making a movie of the book, who would you cast?
- What themes did you recognize throughout the book? How do you think the author weaved them into the story?
- How did you react to novel's ending? What had you been predicting would happen once they found the Water Stone?