



Discussion Questions for *The Blackbirds of St Giles*

- We tried to make *The Blackbirds of St Giles* read like a classic. In what ways did it follow a traditional path and how did it surprise you?
 - Daniel is a hero, but how is he flawed?
 - How does the relationship between Daniel and Pearl develop throughout the story?
 - Did the London experienced by Daniel and Pearl feel real? If so, why, what made it come alive on the page?
 - One of the recurring themes of *The Blackbirds of St Giles* is betrayal. Who betrays who, and when?
 - Daniel is willing to throw the fight for Pearl's sake. What would you have done?
 - Was Jen right to take Pearl to Adanna's house to sing for the society women?
 - Did you sympathize with Adanna? If so, why?
 - How important was it to you to read a traditional historical novel told from a Black perspective?
 - Can you think of any books '*Blackbirds*' reminds you of, and why?
 - We tried to populate the novel with a range of characters representing the rich diversity of late 18th century London. Apart from our leads, who did you enjoy or sympathize with?
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