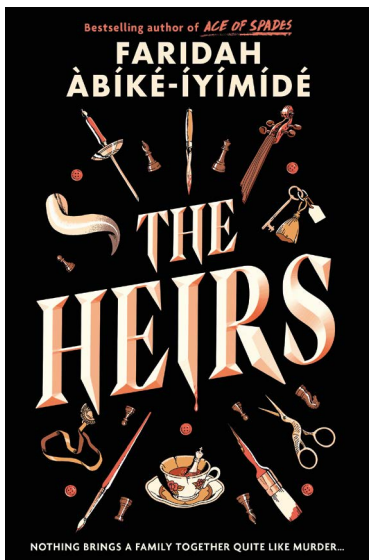


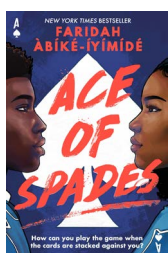
THE HEIRS

FARIDAH ÀBÍKÉ-ÍYÍMÍDÉ



Book Club Questions

1. “Leontes Button blurs the line between villain and victim.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Does the novel encourage sympathy for him, or ultimately condemn him?
2. What role do secrets play in the shaping of the narrative? Which revelation had the biggest impact on your understanding of the story, and why?
3. To what extent do you think genius can be manufactured, and what role do you think wealth, power and privilege play in the process?
4. Each act of the novel is named after a chess move. What does this tell you about the story, and why do you think the author chose to do this?
5. What do you think of the ethics of the Button Method? Do you think it’s possible to mould a prodigy without causing harm?
6. Henry Xu plays a complex role in the family dynamic. Would you describe him as an enabler, a protector or something else entirely?
7. The flashback on p169-172 shows the siblings at their closest. How does this moment affect your view of them, and how does it change how you feel about their later actions?
8. Which of the Button heirs do you identify with most, and why?
9. The annual Prodigy Ball is both a spectacle and a statement. Do you think Leontes Button hosted it to celebrate his children, his legacy or his own ego?
10. The Button Method promises success at a cost. If given the choice, would you accept that kind of upbringing? Why or why not?



“Àbíké-Íyímídé is a total vibe.”

Olivie Blake, NYT bestselling author of *The Atlas Six*

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