

Possession Quiz

1. What years did the 2 plots of this story take place?
 - a. 1986 and 1858
 - b. 1988 and 1843
 - c. 1982 and 1850
 - d. 1980 and 1855
2. Which of these parents “drank too much stout”?
 - a. Christabel’s father
 - b. Maud’s father
 - c. Roland’s mother
 - d. Leonora’s mother
3. What is Val’s nickname for Roland?
 - a. mole
 - b. rat
 - c. hunny
 - d. baby
4. Who are the two experts on Christabel La Motte?
 - a. Maud and Beatrice
 - b. Maud and Paola
 - c. Maud and Ellen
 - d. Maud and Leonora
5. After Blanche died, who did Christabel move in with?
 - a. Emilie LaMotte
 - b. Isidore LaMotte
 - c. Sophie Bailey
 - d. Sabine de Kercoz
6. Who wrote “Mummy Possesst”?
 - a. Roland Michell
 - b. Randolph Henry Ash
 - c. Mrs. Lees
 - d. Leonora Stern

7. Who wrote "The Great Ventriloquist"?
 - a. Randolph Henry Ash
 - b. James Blackladder
 - c. Mortimer Cropper
 - d. Roland Mitchell

8. Who wrote "The Shadowy Portal"?
 - a. Mrs. Lees
 - b. Randolph Henry Ash
 - c. Christabel LaMotte
 - d. Maud Bailey

9. Who wrote "Mythologies"?
 - a. Mrs. Lees
 - b. Ellen Ash
 - c. Christabel LaMotte
 - d. Leonora Stern

10. Who wrote "Helpmeets"?
 - a. Christabel LaMotte
 - b. Leonora Stern
 - c. Maud Bailey
 - d. Ellen Ash

11. Who was nicknamed "The Princess"?
 - a. Maia Bailey
 - b. Val
 - c. Christabel LaMotte
 - d. Sabine de Kercoz

12. Which poem made Christabel question her "simple Christian faith"?
 - a. "The Enchanted Sorceress"
 - b. "Ragnarok"
 - c. "Swammerdam"
 - d. "Melusina"

13. Lady Bailey was in a wheel chair
 - a. because of some unnamed debilitating disease
 - b. because of a riding accident
 - c. because of a childhood illness
 - d. because of an accident in a thunder storm

4. Who is Bertha?
- Christabel's sister
 - Blackladder's assistant
 - Ellen's servant
 - Fergus's new girlfriend
15. Who said: "Novels are works of art which are made out of language, and are made in solitude by one person and read in solitude by one person - by many different, single people, it is to be hoped."
- Maud Bailey
 - A. S. Byatt
 - Randolph Henry Ash
 - Beatrice Nest
16. In Christabel's will, she left all of her papers to
- Sabine de Kercoz
 - Sophie Bailey
 - George Bailey
 - Maia Bailey
17. How old was Ellen when she married Ash?
- 32
 - 25
 - 41
 - 36
18. Where did Ash and Christabel travel together?
- Yorkshire
 - Lincoln
 - Seal Court
 - Richmond Park
19. Where did Maud get her jet brooch?
- She bought it while traveling with Roland
 - Fergus gave it to her as a gift
 - She inherited it from Christabel
 - She bought it years prior to remind her of Christabel
20. What is A. S. Byatt's real name?
- Angela Shawn
 - Alice Susan
 - Antonia Susan
 - Abigail Stratton

100 Must-Read books

Entertainment Weekly

1. ***The Road***, Cormac McCarthy (2006)
2. ***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire***, J.K. Rowling (2000)
3. ***Beloved***, Toni Morrison (1987)
4. ***The Liars' Club***, Mary Karr (1995)
5. ***American Pastoral***, Philip Roth (1997)
6. ***Mystic River***, Dennis Lehane (2001)
7. ***Maus***, Art Spiegelman (1986/1991)
8. ***Selected Stories***, Alice Munro (1996)
9. ***Cold Mountain***, Charles Frazier (1997)
10. ***The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle***, Haruki Murakami (1997)
11. ***Into Thin Air***, Jon Krakauer (1997)
12. ***Blindness***, José Saramago (1998)
13. ***Watchmen***, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons (1986-87)
14. ***Black Water***, Joyce Carol Oates (1992)
15. ***A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius***, Dave Eggers (2000)
16. ***The Handmaid's Tale***, Margaret Atwood (1986)
17. ***Love in the Time of Cholera***, Gabriel García Márquez (1988)
18. ***Rabbit at Rest***, John Updike (1990)
19. ***On Beauty***, Zadie Smith (2005)
20. ***Bridget Jones's Diary***, Helen Fielding (1998)
21. ***On Writing***, Stephen King (2000)
22. ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, Junot Díaz (2007)
23. ***The Ghost Road***, Pat Barker (1996)
24. ***Lonesome Dove***, Larry McMurtry (1985)
25. ***The Joy Luck Club***, Amy Tan (1989)
26. ***Neuromancer***, William Gibson (1984)
27. ***Possession***, A.S. Byatt (1990)
28. ***Naked***, David Sedaris (1997)
29. ***Bel Canto***, Anne Patchett (2001)
30. ***Case Histories***, Kate Atkinson (2004)
31. ***The Things They Carried***, Tim O'Brien (1990)
32. ***Parting the Waters***, Taylor Branch (1988)
33. ***The Year of Magical Thinking***, Joan Didion (2005)
34. ***The Lovely Bones***, Alice Sebold (2002)
35. ***The Line of Beauty***, Alan Hollinghurst (2004)
36. ***Angela's Ashes***, Frank McCourt (1996)
37. ***Persepolis***, Marjane Satrapi (2003)
38. ***Birds of America***, Lorrie Moore (1998)
39. ***Interpreter of Maladies***, Jhumpa Lahiri (2000)
40. ***His Dark Materials***, Philip Pullman (1995-2000)
41. ***The House on Mango Street***, Sandra Cisneros (1984)
42. ***LaBrava***, Elmore Leonard (1983)
43. ***Borrowed Time***, Paul Monette (1988)
44. ***Praying for Sheetrock***, Melissa Fay Greene (1991)
45. ***Eva Luna***, Isabel Allende (1988)
46. ***Sandman***, Neil Gaiman (1988-1996)
47. ***World's Fair***, E.L. Doctorow (1985)
48. ***The Poisonwood Bible***, Barbara Kingsolver (1998)
49. ***Clockers***, Richard Price (1992)
50. ***The Corrections***, Jonathan Franzen (2001)

51. ***The Journalist and the Murderer***, Janet Malcom (1990)
52. ***Waiting to Exhale***, Terry McMillan (1992)
53. ***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay***, Michael Chabon (2000)
54. ***Jimmy Corrigan***, Chris Ware (2000)
55. ***The Glass Castle***, Jeannette Walls (2006)
56. ***The Night Manager***, John le Carré (1993)
57. ***The Bonfire of the Vanities***, Tom Wolfe (1987)
58. ***Drop City***, TC Boyle (2003)
59. ***Krik? Krak!*** Edwidge Danticat (1995)
60. ***Nickel & Dimed***, Barbara Ehrenreich (2001)
61. ***Money***, Martin Amis (1985)
62. ***Last Train To Memphis***, Peter Guralnick (1994)
63. ***Pastoralia***, George Saunders (2000)
64. ***Underworld***, Don DeLillo (1997)
65. ***The Giver***, Lois Lowry (1993)
66. ***A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again***, David Foster Wallace (1997)
67. ***The Kite Runner***, Khaled Hosseini (2003)
68. ***Fun Home***, Alison Bechdel (2006)
69. ***Secret History***, Donna Tartt (1992)
70. ***Cloud Atlas***, David Mitchell (2004)
71. ***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down***, Ann Fadiman (1997)
72. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***, Mark Haddon (2003)
73. ***A Prayer for Owen Meany***, John Irving (1989)
74. ***Friday Night Lights***, H.G. Bissinger (1990)
75. ***Cathedral***, Raymond Carver (1983)
76. ***A Sight for Sore Eyes***, Ruth Rendell (1998)
77. ***The Remains of the Day***, Kazuo Ishiguro (1989)
78. ***Eat, Pray, Love***, Elizabeth Gilbert (2006)
79. ***The Tipping Point***, Malcolm Gladwell (2000)
80. ***Bright Lights, Big City***, Jay McInerney (1984)
81. ***Backlash***, Susan Faludi (1991)
82. ***Atonement***, Ian McEwan (2002)
83. ***The Stone Diaries***, Carol Shields (1994)
84. ***Holes***, Louis Sachar (1998)
85. ***Gilead***, Marilynne Robinson (2004)
86. ***And the Band Played On***, Randy Shilts (1987)
87. ***The Ruins***, Scott Smith (2006)
88. ***High Fidelity***, Nick Hornby (1995)
89. ***Close Range***, Annie Proulx (1999)
90. ***Comfort Me With Apples***, Ruth Reichl (2001)
91. ***Random Family***, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc (2003)
92. ***Presumed Innocent***, Scott Turow (1987)
93. ***A Thousand Acres***, Jane Smiley (1991)
94. ***Fast Food Nation***, Eric Schlosser (2001)
95. ***Kaaterskill Falls***, Allegra Goodman (1998)
96. ***The Da Vinci Code***, Dan Brown (2003)
97. ***Jesus' Son***, Denis Johnson (1992)
98. ***The Predators' Ball***, Connie Bruck (1988)
99. ***Practical Magic***, Alice Hoffman (1995)
100. ***America (the Book)***, Jon Stewart/*Daily Show* (2004)

Fergus mentions that Dr. Maud Bailey, with whom he has had an affair, is an expert on CLM. She runs a Women's Resource Centre in Lincoln [Lincolnshire is on the west coast, north of London]. The other expert is Prof. Leonora Stern from Tallahassee.

CLM's grandparents Jean-Baptiste and Emilie LaMotte had fled the Terror of 1793 in France and escaped to England. Emilie's brother Raoul de Kercoz stayed behind to maintain the family manor Kernemet, in Brittany, France. Isidore was born in 1801, married Arabel Gumpert 1823. Their daughters were Sophie (born 1830, married Sir George Bailey of Seal Close in Lincolnshire) and Christabel (CLM, born 1825). CLM had a small inheritance and lived with Blanche Glover (BG), who was also artistically inclined and who committed suicide by drowning in 1861. After BG died, CLM went to live with her sister Sophie and wrote no more poetry, dying in 1890 at the age of 65.

Blanche and CLM were assumed to be lesbians.]

Ellen senses something seems amiss with her servant Bertha. Patience, her sister, arrives with her children. Bertha is increasingly sullen...something ails her. She has sinned, is pregnant, and must be let go. She will not name the father [we never learn who the father is].

Jet is a compact black variety of lignite (lignite is sometimes referred to as brown coal because it has a brown streak -- *i.e.*, powdered lignite is brown). Although jet is usually characterized, quite properly, as dense and homogeneous, much of it exhibits a woody structure, which manifests its derivation from conifers.

September 1986: Roland Michell (Roland) is a 29 y/o literary researcher, a Ph.D. in literature from Prince Albert College in 1978. He is researching Randolph Henry Ash (RHA), a noteworthy though fictitious Victorian poet, at the London Library. Ash was the subject of his dissertation. He works part-time for the noted Ash scholar James Blackadder (JB) in JB's "Ash Factory" at the British Museum. JB, who is a Scot, has been editing the poet's *Complete Works* since 1951. Roland is looking for sources to Ash's poem *Garden of Prosperpina* [Persephone].

He learns that in June 1858, RHA had met "Miss LaMotte" and "Miss Glover" for the first time at his breakfast party. Miss LaMotte is the daughter of the writer of *Mythologies*, Isidore LaMotte.

Back at the British Museum, JB, 54 y/o, works with his assistant Paola. JB was asked to edit the *Complete Poems and Plays* of RHA in c. 1959, with support from Lord Ash, RHA's heir. Roland tells him about the Vico, though not specifically about the letters he has stolen. JB tells him about Isidore LaMotte, the author of *Mythologies*, an 1832 book about the legends of Bretagne (French, in English=Brittany). Miss LaMotte was the author of *Last Things*, various children's stories, and *Tales Told in November*. He mentions Ellen Best Ash (EBA or Ellen), RHA's wife, who wrote a personal journal, and a single book called *Helpmeets* (about wives of great men such as Tennyson).

Roland has already read some books about CLM. CLM's grandparents Jean-Baptiste and Emilie LaMotte had fled the Terror of 1793 in France and escaped to England. Emilie's brother Raoul de Kercoz stayed behind to maintain the family manor Kernemet, in Brittany, France. Isidore was born in 1801, married Arabel Gumpert 1823. Their daughters were Sophie (born 1830, married Sir George Bailey of Seal Close in Lincolnshire) and Christabel (CLM, born 1825). CLM had a small inheritance and lived with Blanche Glover (BG), who was also artistically inclined and who committed suicide by drowning in 1861. After BG died, CLM went to live with her sister Sophie and wrote no more poetry, dying in 1890 at the age of 65.

Like Petrarch's Laura and Dante's Beatrice, MPC believes Embla represents a real woman in RHA's life. He ponders Ellen's reluctance to marry RHA and her father's doubts about him--she was 36 when she married him. He recalls how Victorian men turned to the underworld of prostitutes to satisfy their urges--did the prim Ellen satisfy the sensual RHA reflected in this poem, or did she hide a more passionate nature, or did RHA simply sublimate his desires?

letter from RHA on Whitby, his visit to stores selling carved jet (lignite). He has sent her a piece of jet jewelry and a poem. Bracelets with hair... The shopkeeper notes Maud's jet hair brooch, says it is by a noted artist Isaac Greenberg, predates 1861. Maud lets her bundled golden hair fall when she hands over the brooch She has apparently inherited this brooch from CLM.