

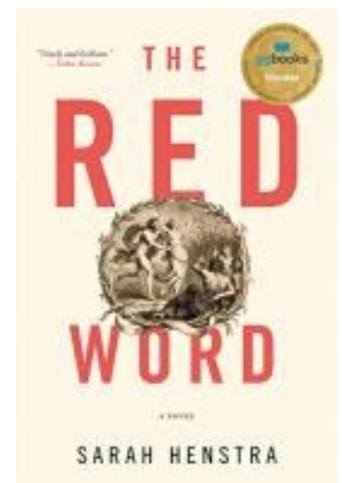


# The Red Word: A Novel

Sarah Henstra

## Discussion Questions

1. How did you experience the book? Were you immediately drawn into the story—or did it take a while? Did the book intrigue, amuse, disturb, alienate, irritate, or frighten you?
2. Do you find the characters convincing? Are they believable? Are they fully developed as complex human beings—or were they one-dimensional?
3. Which characters do you particularly admire or dislike? What are their primary characteristics?
4. What motivates different character's actions? Do you think those actions are justified or ethical?
5. Do any characters grow or change during the course of the novel? If so, in what way?
6. If you could insert yourself as a character in the book, what role would you play?
7. Is the plot well developed? Is it believable? Do you feel manipulated along the way, or do plot events unfold naturally, organically?
8. Is the story plot or character driven? Do events unfold quickly or is more time spent developing characters' inner lives? Does it make a difference to your enjoyment?
9. Consider the ending. Did you expect it or were you surprised? Was it manipulative or forced? Was it neatly wrapped up—maybe too neatly? Or was the story unresolved, ending on an ambiguous note?





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## About the Author

Sarah Henstra's latest novel, [\*The Red Word\*](#) (2018), was published in the US by Grove Atlantic and in Canada by ECW. The UK edition will be published in 2019 by Tramp Press. Her previous novel [\*Mad Miss Mimic\*](#) (Penguin Canada, 2015) is an historical tale for young adults. A new YA novel, *We Contain Multitudes*, is coming from Penguin Random House (Canada) and Little, Brown (US) in Spring 2019.

Sarah is a professor of English literature at Ryerson University, where she teaches courses in Gothic Horror, Fairy Tales & Fantasies, Psychoanalysis & Literature, and Creative Writing. She grew up on the wild, wet coast of British Columbia, but now she lives in Toronto, Ontario.

**This book is available for download as an eBook and an eAudiobook. For more information, please visit [lpl.overdrive.com](http://lpl.overdrive.com) or call 519-661-4600.**

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