

A SKY PAINTED GOLD

LAURA WOOD

Discussion Guide

Prologue

What is your first impression of the main character Lou?

'It all started with an apple'. This is the first line in *A Sky Painted Gold*. What does the apple symbolise to you? Does it tell us anything about Lou's character?

The prologue beautifully describes Cardew House, set on an island separated from the mainland by a cobbled causeway. Would you, like Lou, choose to break into the house?

Part One: Chapters 1 – 11

The Trevelyan household is getting ready for Lou's older sister Alice's wedding in the opening chapter. What do you think of Lou's family? Are they conventional? Who is your favourite member of the family?

We soon hear about the Cardew family, who intend to holiday in Cardew House for the whole summer. How do Laura Wood's descriptions of the Cardew family compare with her descriptions of the Trevelyan family?

The arrival of the Cardew party in Penlyn sparks excitement and gossip amongst the residents of the Cornish town. What marks the Cardews as different from the community in Penlyn?

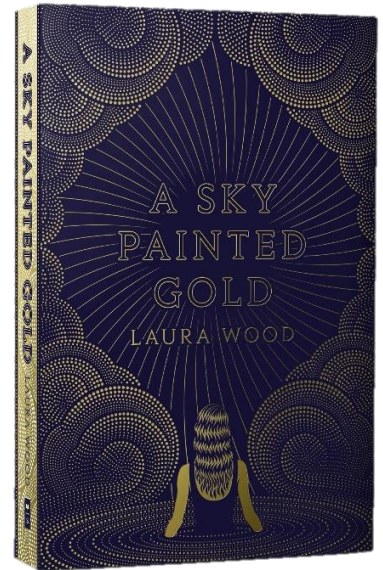
The early chapters describe Alice's romantic wedding to Jack from Lou's perspective. What are Lou's expectations for love and romance?

Lou decides to make her way to the Cardew House one evening. Why does Lou feel so drawn to the Cardew House?

Lou spies on the party from an oak tree. How does this party compare to Alice's wedding in the earlier chapters? Why does Lou choose not to approach the partygoers?

We meet Robert Cardew on page 51. What is your first impression of Robert, and his first conversation with Lou?

Wood describes Caitlin Cardew as 'an open book'. Do you agree with this description? Why do you think Caitlin is so welcoming towards Lou?





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In Chapter Eight Lou attends her first party at the Cardew House and meets members of the Cardews' inner circle. Who's your favourite character at the party?

'A look passes between Robert and me that is like a clashing of swords.' Why do Lou and Robert argue?

Does Lou change after being introduced to the Cardews, their inner circle and their lifestyle? Is there a shift in her personality and outlook on life and relationships?

Part Two: Chapters 12 – 23

Lou associates the Cardew House with freedom. What is she trying to escape?

Lou and Robert bond over Lou's "Lady Amelia" stories. Does this surprise you?

Caitlin remarks to Lou that "Robert needs someone to argue with." Why does Caitlin approve of the bickering between Lou and Robert?

Lou finds Robert at the Trevelyan household playing with her younger siblings. Why do you think Robert wanted to meet Lou's family?

Lou visits London for the first time in this section of the book. What does she love about the city?

What do you think about Lucky and Caitlin's relationship?

How does Lou's relationship with her sister Alice change in the book?

A Sky Painted Gold is full of descriptions of beautiful clothes. If you could wear one outfit described in the book, what would you choose?

In Chapter 22 we learn more about Robert's engagement to Laurie, and that Caitlin is engaged. What does Lou think about their choices and does this change her perspective on love and romance?

Part Three: Chapter 24

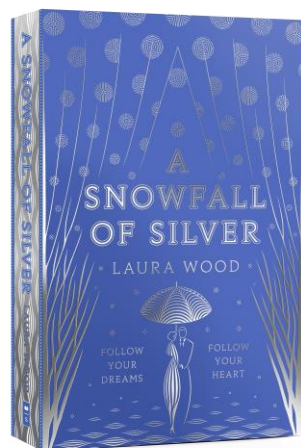
What do you think about Lou's plans to move to London? Would she have made this decision if she hadn't met the Cardews?

Are you surprised by Caitlin's letter?

How has Robert changed over the course of the book?



A NEW COMING-OF-AGE
ROMANCE FROM...
LAURA WOOD



Laura Wood's latest book, *A Snowfall of Silver*, is set in the same world of *A Sky Painted Gold*. *A Snowfall of Silver* is Freya's story, the younger sister of Lou. What do you expect Freya to be like in *A Snowfall of Silver*?

About *A Snowfall of Silver*:

In the Autumn of 1931, eighteen-year-old Freya Trevelyan runs away from her home in Cornwall to follow her dream of becoming an actress. When she is invited to join a theatrical company about to head out on tour, Freya thinks the path to success is clear, and, amidst all the glamour and bustle of stage life, she finds - for the first time - a place to belong. But can reality ever live up to her expectations? What if her life - and falling in love - turn out to be nothing like she planned?

A Snowfall of Silver is an enchanting coming of age romance about following your dreams - even when they aren't quite what you expected.

About Laura Wood:

Laura Wood is the winner of the Montegrappa Scholastic Prize for New Children's Writing. Her first YA novel *A Sky Painted Gold* was shortlisted for the 2019 YA Book Prize, 2018 BAMB Readers' Awards and the 2019 Romantic Novelists' Association's Awards. Her second YA novel, *Under A Dancing Star*, was hailed as 'achingly romantic' by the Observer. Laura is also the author of the critically acclaimed *Vote for Effie* (shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award) and the Poppy Pym series for younger readers.