

PICADOR

# Reading Group Gold

## *The Fortune Teller*

Gwendolyn Womack

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**FROM THE AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE MEMORY PAINTER* COMES A SWEEPING AND SUSPENSEFUL TALE OF ROMANCE, FATE, AND FORTUNE.**

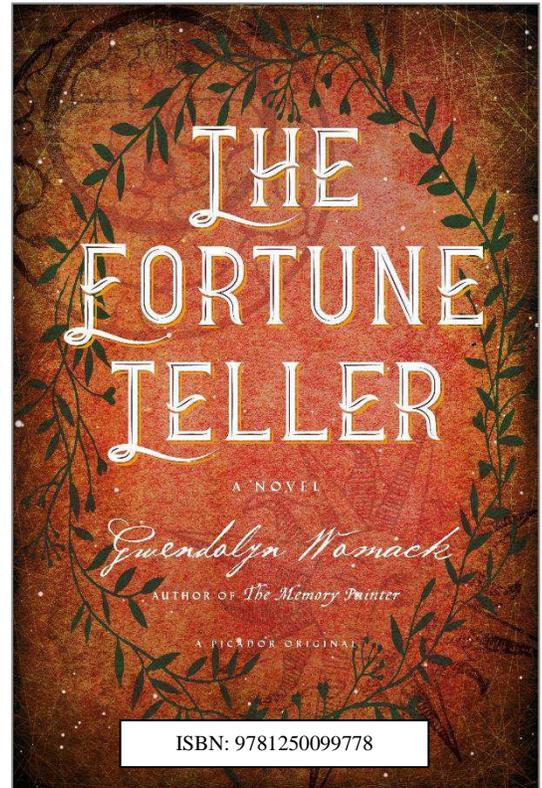
Semele Cavnaw appraises antiquities for an exclusive Manhattan auction house, deciphering ancient texts—and when she discovers a manuscript written in the time of Cleopatra, she knows it will be the find of her career. Its author tells the story of a priceless tarot deck, now lost to history, but as Semele delves further, she realizes the manuscript is more than it seems. Both a memoir and a prophecy, it appears to be the work of a powerful seer, describing devastating wars and natural disasters in detail thousands of years before they occurred.

The more she reads, the more the manuscript begins to affect Semele's life. But what happened to the tarot deck? As the mystery of her connection to its story deepens, Semele can't shake the feeling that she's being followed. Only one person can help her make sense of it all: her client, Theo Bossard. Yet Theo is arrogant and elusive, concealing secrets of his own, and there's more to Semele's desire to speak with him than she would like to admit. Can Semele even trust him?

The auction date is swiftly approaching, and someone wants to interfere—someone who knows the cards exist, and that the Bossard manuscript is tied to her. Semele realizes it's up to her to stop them: the manuscript holds the key to a two-thousand-year-old secret, a secret someone will do anything to possess.

### QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. *The Fortune Teller* revolves around an ancient memoir that is also a prophecy. Semele and Cabe have a discussion while walking to her apartment about the possibility of predicting the future. Do you believe foreseeing the future is possible? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever had a tarot card reading? Did you start the book already knowing about tarot? If you read the novel without knowing about tarot cards, what did you find to be the most interesting aspect about the tarot and the history of cards?
3. What were your thoughts on Semele's journey to embracing her intuition? Did you have any idea where she'd end up with her ability?



4. What did you think Semele had found when she first discovered the manuscript? What did you make of Marcel's note?
5. What were your assumptions about Theo Bossard and the part he would play in the story?
6. How did you feel about the mysterious text messages from VK? Who did you think was sending them and answering?
7. The love story within the novel explores the idea of having foresight to know if a relationship will last. What were your feelings about Bren and Semele? Where did you think they would end up? Were you satisfied with the conclusion?
8. Do you think Semele was being too hard on her mother for keeping her adoption a secret? How would you have reacted to discovering the truth?
9. At what point in the story did you realize Semele's true connection to the manuscript?
10. The novel spans over two thousand years of history. Which lifetime that Ionna recounted was your favorite and why?
11. How much do you think Semele's father knew about her family's past? How much do you think Semele's real grandmother shared with him?
12. This book explores the power of dreams as one of the ways intuition delivers information to our consciousness. What did you make of Semele's dream of the biking accident and helicopter ride?
13. This novel explores the notion of nonlinear time. Do you believe that in the far future it will be possible to experience nonlinear time or will it remain forever as fiction?

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