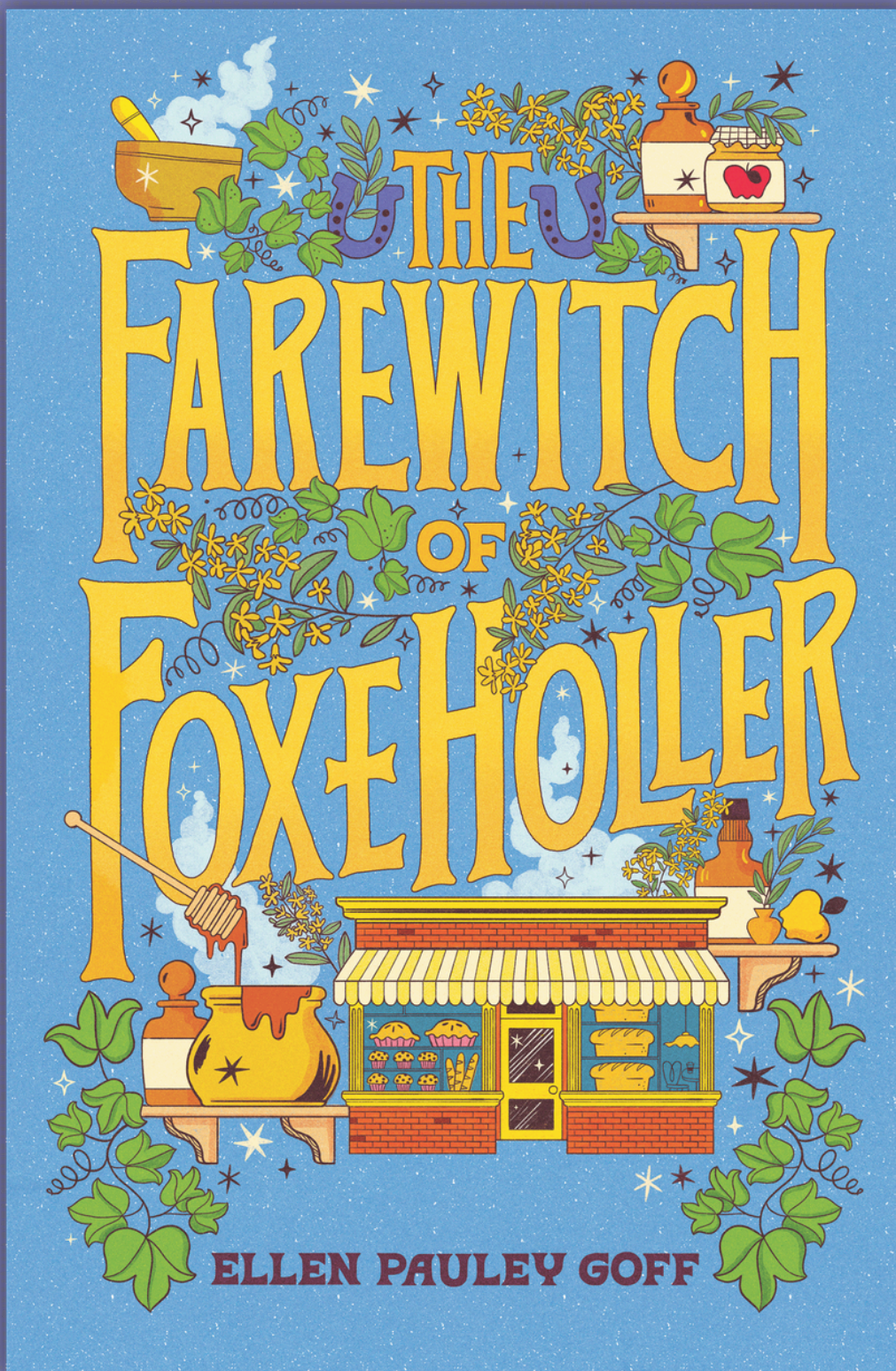




BOOK CLUB KIT



Discussion Questions:



1. As Honey learns, recipes are made of ingredients that work together to create something greater than the taste of individual flavors. What are some ingredients in your life that have come together to form something larger than the sum of their parts?
2. Many of the characters in *Farewitch* are “messy millennials” still learning lessons they thought they should have learned earlier. What are some lessons you’re still learning that you expected to have learned already? Are there lessons we never fully learn?
3. While *Farewitch* is about family, it’s also about the other dear friends and neighbors we absorb into our orbits, our “found families.” Found families often develop unexpectedly on a journey--what are the crucial elements of a found family to you?
4. Honey and the Warlock have an age gap romance, and there are plenty of mentions of other kinds of gaps in the characters’ lives: gaps in knowledge, between differing expectations, between people, and between conflicting memories of the same history. What is a large “gap” in your life that maybe gave you the tools to bridge another gap?
5. Honey describes her apron as armor. What’s your armor, and is it removable? If it is, do you remove it in front of others, or only when you’re by yourself?
6. *Farewitch* navigates the concepts of legacy, living up to family history, and earning the reputation of our ancestors. What would you say are the most prevalent elements of your own family legacy?
7. An important question for Honey that appears directly in the text courtesy of her friend Silas is: When is the last time you did something for the first time?
8. *Farewitch* is set in the South, specifically a small town in Kentucky bordering on Appalachia. Yet, the theme of community can be found in many settings and stories, both fictional and in our own lives. What are some aspects of where you grew up that you only realized were universal once you left?
9. In the narrative arc of a story, the insecurities that spurred a character to take action often transform into new motivations, so that our characters can end up somewhere different from where they started. What is a change in your life that triggered a journey from your “A” to your “B”?
10. *Farewitch* largely centers on the South as a setting and atmosphere, but someone’s “south” might be someone else’s “north.” What is a “south” to you that you think might be a “north” to someone else?
11. The language and prose in *Farewitch* involves a lot of colloquialisms unique to its setting and the author. What was an undeniable fixture of your childhood that you only realized later in life was actually a colloquial nuance of your unique upbringing?

In the Kitchen with Ellen Pauley Goff

My mom's side comes from West Virginia and my dad's from Southern Kentucky. There were always very few men in the family, so I was raised by mostly women, like my two grandmothers (their favorite colloquial gems appear throughout the novel), and learned firsthand that in the South, food is a love language. As I worked on the novel, one of my grandmothers passed, and I inherited her immense assortment of kitchen wares. This included her collection of community cookbooks from across Kentucky, but also from her hometown of Marrowbone, Kentucky.

Once in a while in these books, I spot a familiar last name from my own family tree, like a grassroots, ancestral treasure hunt. I began collecting these old community cookbooks, which were usually published with neighborly fundraising and the efforts of local women's organizations. These homegrown cookbooks tell powerful stories, not just in their recipes, but in the small anecdotes from the (nearly always) women contributors.

When my grandmothers were growing up in the rural South, a woman's name didn't often appear front and center, but in these cookbooks, they do, and that's how these artifacts became such a crucial inspiration behind **Farewitch.**



Photo ©Sidney Beal III

Honey Frost's Cornbread

**The first thing you need to know about
making cornbread is that
food is magic.**



Ingredients:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal (Weisenberger if you can!)
- 2 tbsp. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups milk (buttermilk or whole, room temp) 3 eggs
- 2 sticks butter (1 cup) softened
- Optional:
 - 2 small onions & half a jalapeño, diced
 - 1 cup white cheddar cheese, shredded



Directions:

- Oil the inside of a 10" cast iron skillet & place in the oven as the oven preheats at 450°F.
- Combine flour, cornmeal, sugar, & salt.
- Add eggs, then milk, then butter.
- Remove skillet from oven (careful!) & pour batter directly into hot skillet so oil bubbles up on the sides.
- Return to oven & bake at 400°F for 15-20 min until golden brown & fork comes out clean
- Let cool in the skillet for a few minutes before slicing

Lea Anne's Strawberry Cake

My mom, Lea Anne, has been a working mom her whole life, so pockets of time for baking and other hobbies are rare. But, she would always make this strawberry cake for my dad on his birthday, because 1) strawberry is his favorite flavor and 2) his birthday is in June, peak strawberry season. This recipe embraces both sides of that history: intentional locally-sourced produce from Kentucky farmers markets and a cake mix in a box for ease and convenience. As Ina Garten says, you make a little, you buy a little.

Ingredients:

1 box white deluxe cake mix
1 3oz. box strawberry Jell-O
4 eggs
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen strawberries
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water

For frosting:

2 cups powdered sugar
4 Tbs butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup frozen strawberries



Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F
- Mix cake ingredients and divide into 2 greased and floured 9" round pans
- Bake according to package instructions, about 20-25 minutes
- Meanwhile, combine frosting ingredients in large bowl of electric mixture and stir until fluffy.
- When baked, remove cakes from pan and let cool completely before frosting
- Tip: decorate with sprinkles and fresh, sliced strawberries!

Cherry Delight Pie

Most of the recipes I've saved from my grandmothers' kitchens are written on torn pieces of paper, Post-it notes, the backs of envelopes, or in the margins of church bulletins. Because of that, there are a lot of recipes like this one for cherry pie -- recipes with a lot of sugar, minimal direction, and plenty of faith that it'll all turn out right in the end. As Honey says: "Always trust the handwriting."

cherry delight pie

1. 1 cup graham cracker crumbs &
six tablespoons melted margarine
Bake 10 minutes at 250 degrees
(cool) -

2. ^{1 Bot} 2 cup powdered sugar,
2 tablespoons milk,
8 oz. cream cheese.
Beat with mixer until creamy &
smooth

Spread in crust & 1 cup
pecans on top - refrigerate for
30 minutes. Spread whipped
cream on top.

Top with strawberries

Coconut Cake

This recipe has my grandmother written all over it, and not just because it's in her recognizable handwriting. She was a fiercely loyal soul, and could hold a grudge just as well as she could a heavy cast iron skillet. This extended into her cooking, and she insisted on certain brands of ingredients -- and that attention to detail is probably why her cooking and baking have such a visceral personality in my memories. Here, it was Eagle Brand PET milk or nothing; she always kept cans on hand right next to the Winn-Dixie coffee mugs.

Coconut Cake
1½ cup sugar
3½ oz butter
1.6 coconut milk
1½ flour
1 cup milk
1 + table spoon baking powder
1¾ cups Eagle Brand milk
¾ cups coconut

Bake 350.00



LISTEN TO THE FAREWITCH OF FOXE HOLLER PLAYLIST!

Featuring songs by Taylor Swift, Dolly Parton, Tyler Childers, and more!



5 FAVORITE WITCHES WHO INSPIRED THE WITCHES IN THE BOOK:

- **BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE** (1958) Gillian Holroyd (Kim Novak), a witch living in New York City
- **KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE** by Eiko Kandonno (1985) Kiki, a young witch who begins a delivery service via broom
- **PRACTICAL MAGIC** (1998) Aunt Jet (Dianne Wiest) and Aunt Frances (Stockard Channing), eccentric witches and whimsical aunts
- **A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES** by Deborah Harkness (2011) Diana Bishop, bookish and early-thirties witch in love with tall dark and handsome
- **AGATHA ALL ALONG** (2024) Agatha Harkness (Kathryn Hahn), anti-hero witch and leader of a ragtag group of witches

