



The Warrior Heir
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About the book:

Before he knew about the Roses, 16-year-old Jack lived an unremarkable life in the small Ohio town of Trinity. Only the medicine he has to take daily and the thick scar above his heart set him apart from the other high-schoolers. Then one day Jack skips his medicine. Suddenly, he is stronger, fiercer, and more confident than ever before. And it feels great—until he loses control of his own strength and nearly kills another player during soccer team tryouts.

Soon, Jack learns the startling truth about himself: He is Weirind; part of an underground society of magical people who live among us. At the head of this magical society sit the feuding houses of the Red Rose and the White Rose, whose power is determined by playing The Game—a magical tournament in which each house sponsors a warrior to fight to the death. The winning house rules the Weir. As if his bizarre magical heritage isn't enough, Jack finds out that he's not just another member of Weirind—he's one of the last of the warriors—at a time when both houses are scouting for a player.

Discussion guide:

1. Why is it important to know the story of Lee's family in the prologue? What conflict does it reveal to the reader? What happened to Lee?
2. How do Jessamine's actions both save the baby's life and doom him in the future? Why does his aunt agree to let him grow up in Trinity?
3. Describe what happens during soccer tryouts with Jack and Lobeck. How does this bring unwanted attention to Trinity? How is the medicine that Jack has taken his whole life related to his performance?
4. Why does Aunt Linda take Jack on a road trip? What does she hope to find? Describe what happens in the courthouse and in the cemetery in the town of Coal Grove. What do Jack and his friends uncover, literally? Why is Jack the heir of it?
5. Develop a list of rules that Jack would need to survive as a Weirland Warrior. Until this point, who has protected him? Now, who will train him for his destiny?
6. Why is Jack so valuable to both the White and Red Rose contingents? What will the each side do with him, if possible? Besides Shadow slayer, what other gifts does Jack receive? Would you want any of them?
7. Explain the two major altercations before Jack leaves for England. Who attacks him? What are the outcomes? Are both enemies truly defeated or not? How are things not what they seem? How does it show that Trinity is no longer safe for him?
8. What happens in England when Jack and Aunt Linda make the required visit to Dr. Longbranch? How does Will barely survive? What do Will and Fitch reveal about Susannah's death? Why is this important to Jack's survival?
9. How does everything change in Cumbria? Why does Jack decide to participate in the tournament? How does this choice best serve his family and friends?
10. What is the connection between Hastings and Jack's great grandmother, Susannah? How does Hastings hope to change the power structure of the Weirland forever with Jack's participation in the tournament? What happens with both Aunt Linda and Jack's mother?