



## THE PARENTATIONS

Kate Mayfield

Spanning centuries, this is a stunning speculative historical novel. Deep within the savage beauty of Iceland, a hidden pool grants those who drink from it endless life. For those that have, their secret must remain buried for two hundred years, but time is slipping away, and malign forces are gathering. Kate Mayfield examines the themes of family, immortality and betrayal in this fascinating novel. The questions below are designed to enhance your discussion of *The Parentations*.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Which of the characters did you identify most strongly with and why?
2. How does Constance and Verity's relationship explore family responsibility?
3. How does the use of the two timelines create suspense/mystery around the child?
4. Explore the themes of power and femininity.
5. What is the significance of the hidden pool? How does it drive the plot?
6. How does betrayal factor in to *The Parentations*?
7. Does anything about eighteenth-century London appeal to you as an alternative to modern living? Would you like to live forever? If so, what would you do?
8. What is the beauty of the Icelandic landscape a metaphor for?
9. How does sipping from the pool change the characters?
10. What is the significance of memory in this novel?