



Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Black Sun
By Rebecca Roanhorse
Discussed March 2023

Key Characters

POV Characters	Others	From Their Pasts
Serapio Xiala Naranpa Okoa	Paadeh/Eedi/Powageh Balam/Callo/Patu/Baat Iktan/Abah/Haisan/Eche Esa/Chaiya/Ashk/Feyoue Denaochi/Zataya	Saaya Kiutue

Discussion Questions

1. Book Discussion Questions 101....Did you like this book? Why, or why not?
2. The book utilizes multiple point of view characters – some of whom have opposing perspectives and goals – and these characters don't start interacting until 20% of the way into the book.
 - a) How did you feel about the use of multiple POV characters? Did it enhance your experience of the story or detract from it?
 - b) Can you categorize any of the POV characters as the "Hero" or "Villain" of the story? How did Roanhorse's approach to antagonist/protagonist work for you?
3. Is there anyone you would categorize as Good or Evil in the story?
4. Roanhorse uses Mesoamerican mythology and history as a strong influence in the story. How well did this resonate with you? What other works have you read with similar influences? How does this compare?
5. Each Chapter in the book begins with a location, a year, and a time-in-context of the finale (x days/years/months before Convergence) in addition to a quotation from an in-world source (most either a travelogue or the writings of Serapio's Mother). How well did this contextual framing work for you? Did it impact the tension within the story?

6. How effective was Roanhorse at worldbuilding in this story? We see glimpses of various cultures, economies, religious practices, diplomacy, and more. Are there elements of worldbuilding you didn't see?
7. There's a lot to unpack in this story from a sociological perspective. Let's talk about Roanhorse's handling of:
 - a) Race
 - b) Class
 - c) Gender
 - d) Sexuality
 - e) Religion
8. Prophecies are a significant trope in many fantasy stories, and prophecy drives significant elements of Roanhorse's story. There's a fascinating section in Chapter 32 talking about prophecies....what did you think of Roanhorse including both prophecy and an in-story discussion/analysis of the value (or lack thereof) of prophecy?
9. What did you think of the climax of the story? What repercussions do you believe the events of the climax will have?
10. If you were to identify one underlying theme to the story...what would it be?
11. This is the first book of an expected trilogy (the second book, *Fevered Star* is already out). Do you think you'll continue reading the trilogy beyond this book? What about other Roanhorse works?