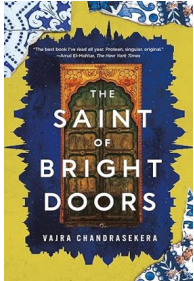




# Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



**The Saint of Bright Doors**  
 By Vajra Chandrasekera  
*Discussed January 2025*

## Characters

In Luriat	Ancients & Others
Fetter/Peroe – Our...hero?	Mother-of-Glory – Fetter’s mother
Hej – His Lover	The Perfect and Kind - Worldchanger
Pipra – Researching Bright Doors	Salyut, Magellen, Vido – His Saints & Aides
Koel, Caduv, Upse – The Unchosen	Ordinary – Mother’s old flame
The Unfettered	

## Discussion Questions

1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. The story contains modern conveniences (planes, phones, social media) yet also deals with mystical and supernatural elements. Would you consider the book fantasy? Science fiction? Something in between/something else?
3. What things that you’ve read or seen in the past did this remind you of?
4. The support group for the Unchosen presents us with a group of individuals who seem to have been considered for a prophesied role, yet abandoned in favor of a different “Chosen One” or who have seemingly walked away from their prophesied role. Would you consider it worse to be a Chosen one...or an Unchosen?
5. The existence of the Unchosen (and their Chosen counterparts) suggests some level of predetermination...destiny/fate. Is this a world driven by predestiny or by free will?

6. How does the significance of race, ethnicity, caste, and class in identification in Luriat align with the idea of destiny versus free will?
7. There are significant portions of the story that deal with the treatment of immigrants – their handling in Luriat, the networks of support in the Sands, the pogroms and the camps, the expectations of purges in the White Year. Did these elements remind you of the refugee crises in the last dozen or so years in the Western world (Brexit, Trump's policies, etc).
8. Fetter's five tasks or The Unforgivables – Matricide; Heresy leading to factionalism; sancticide of votaries who have reached the fourth level of awakening; patricide; and the assassination of the Perfect and Kind – are they accomplished? Who accomplishes them?
9. There's a lot to unpack (and some easy to make real world connections) in how the power of cult, conspiracy, and fear allow the conglomeration of power.....discuss.
10. There are numerous queer relationships within the story...how do you think the author handled those?
11. This is Vajra Chandrasekera's first published novel – though he has published numerous shorter pieces in genre outlets. What did you think the strengths and weaknesses of his writing were? The novel won the Nebula Award and was a finalist for the Hugo Award...do you think the novel deserved that?
12. What themes did YOU see in the story?
13. Would you read another novel by Chandrasekera?