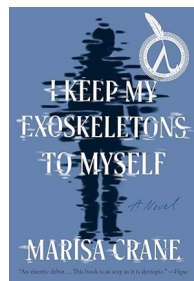




Lambda Sci-Fi
DC Area Gaylaxians



I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself

By Mac Crane

Discussed June 2025

Characters

Kris (Narrator)
Beau
The Kid/Bear

Siegfried
Dune
Julian
Michelle

Beau's Mom
Kris's Dad

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you like it? Why or why not?
2. This novel introduces a dystopia in which people are given extra shadows as a form of punishment. How does this manifest in society as depicted in the book? Is it an effective literary device?
3. The narration style of the book is unusual, with Kris speaking directly to her wife, as well as featuring short sections and pop quizzes. How does this contribute to the story being told?
4. How does the novel portray child raising? Do you find the kid to be a realistic child?
5. Hints about the political situation of the world of the novel are peppered throughout the book. What are the parallels to our own politics? In what way is it different?
6. The book is often quite sexually explicit, including descriptions of BDSM. How does this serve the narrative? Did it work for you?
7. How does Siegfried's death, and subsequent reveal of his crime, affect Kris and the kid?

8. The reveal of what Kris did to receive her second shadow is delayed until about half-way through the book. Why does the story wait so long to share this? Does it affect how you view Kris?
9. Did you find the ending satisfying?
10. Would you read more work by Mac Crane?