



Lambda Sci-Fi
DC Area Gaylaxians



Bury Your Gays
By Chuck Tingle
Discussed October 2025

Characters

Starring:

Misha – semi-closeted queer horror screenwriter

Zeke – his very supportive and accepting bisexual boyfriend

Tara – his asexual best best friend ever, paranoia-laced techie with a wild fashion sense

With:

The Smoker – a ghost or curse who'll kill you and grind your bones and smoke them if you don't "got a light"

The Black Lamb – a devouring cosmic horror that sometimes looks like a sickly and sad little black lamb

Mrs. Why – an alien entity not realizing its sharing of the entirety of the cosmos destroys human minds, rule follower

The Bride – gave herself a gift on her wedding day...

Enzo Basile (Chris Oak) – a mafia don on the edge played by deceased Hollywood legend Chris Oak

Featuring:

Jack Hays – Hollywood executive, balancing being an asshole with being Misha's friend

Lily – aspiring queer screenwriter

Keith – Misha's traumatizing uncle

Richie – Misha's first, and violently aborted, queer experience

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you like it? Why or why not?
2. The story is at times extremely violent/gory/scary....did you find the horrific elements added to or detracted from the story Tingle was telling?
3. Stories about writers and their creations coming to life have been done before (for example, Stephen King's *The Dark Half*), was this reminiscent of anything you've read with this story device before?

4. Misha isn't your typical hero – he's a screenwriter with a screenwriter's way of looking at things (everything is about story and action beats and arcs and threads). What did you think of using a writer's perspective to tell this story? Would it have worked from, say, Zeke's perspective or Tara's?
5. In the story, an artificially created performance is a nominee for a Best Actor Oscar. Let's talk about this in light of the current state of AI, creative works, and the recent controversy surrounding the creation and use of an AI actress (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilly_Norwood).
6. The story talks a lot about the art and meaning to be found even in the schlockiest of creative works (The Smoker's origin and what he was supposed to represent for example). Given the disdain many literary snobs have for mass production work like science fiction – what were your thoughts on Misha's assertions about the artistic and thematic merit of some of his more horrific works?
7. Corporate greed run amok - unchained capitalism – and its influence on the creative arts is a real problem in the real world (the corporate takeovers of publishing started destroying the midlist author landscape 20+ years ago, and many have claimed that creativity has been dying in TV/movies because of the drive to maximize profit over everything). Was *Bury Your Gays* a traditional cautionary tale about where we could be headed?
8. Misha is given the opportunity to live in a world where the pendulum on queer representation has swung way into the positive/joy zone with happy endings for everyone...but that world also doesn't feel right to Misha. What are your thoughts on the whole question of representation in media and what it should be like...let's discuss.
9. Was Tara right....are there no asexual heroes in media?
10. For all its horrificity at times, *Bury Your Gays* has a happy ending for our heroes. Was the ending "earned"? Did their victory over the AI feel like a deus ex machina (a very apt phrase in this instance!)?
11. We read *Camp Damascus* previously (and a brief cameo mention of a movie based on the events there appears in *Bury Your Gays*). Do you think Tingle has improved as a writer? Would you read more works by Tingle?