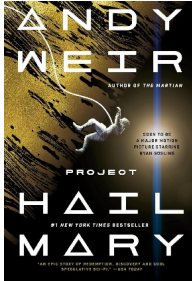




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



Project Hail Mary
By Andy Weir
Discussed June 2026

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish this book?
2. Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?
3. Rocky, most human character?
4. How does Ryland Grace's amnesia shape our perception of his reliability, identity, and past choices? How does the nonlinear memory recovery structure influence suspense and our judgment of him over time? Did later revelations revise that judgment?
5. Like *The Martian*, this book is very technical and focused on problem solving – with a great deal more physics and biology – did this work for you?
6. Where did the book's science feel most convincing, and where did it feel like narrative convenience? How do you decide what to accept in hard-ish science fiction: mathematical rigor, internal consistency, or emotional credibility?
7. Rocky is portrayed with both radical difference and emotional familiarity. Does the novel ultimately anthropomorphize alien intelligence, or does it succeed in presenting true otherness?
8. When Grace's memory fully kicks in, he is surprised to find that he had refused to go on the mission. Stratt simply rohypnoled him and shoved him onto the ship. How did you react to the twist? Did it change your feelings about Grace?
9. Is Grace's coerced participation in the Hail Mary mission ethically justified, and which decisions—if any—are defensible under a near-extinction "ends justify the means" framework?
10. One review on Goodreads states that "this is a collection of bad, outdated racial and character stereotypes stolen from bad Hollywood movies from white directors. Sure, the Russian drinks vodka. Asians speak with horrible accents. The bossy female boss is bossy. Scientists make sex jokes that are not funny if you're not a 14-year-old virgin." What are your thoughts on the representation of different identity groups, such as race, gender, or age?

11. Is Grace's arc primarily about moral growth, self-preservation, redemption, or something else? What about his final decision; is it an act of heroism, friendship, or moral obligation?
12. Do you find the book's conclusion satisfying?
13. For those of you who watched the film, what did you think of the adaptation? How does it compare to the novel?