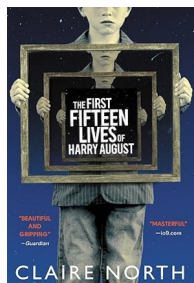




Lambda Sci-Fi
DC Area Gaylaxians



The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August
By Claire North
Discussed July 2026

Characters

- Patrick and Harriet August: Harry's adoptive parents
- Constance, Victoria, Alexandra, and Clement Hulne: Harry's grandmother, aunts, and cousin; only Clement showed kindness to Harry
- Rory Edmund Hulne: Harry's biological father; a cold and distant man
- Akinleye: A Kalachakra who pursues pleasure and ultimately undergoes the Forgetting
- Richard Lisle: A serial killer and target of Harry's vengeance
- Rosemary Dawsett: One of Harry's lovers and Richard Lisle's victims, precipitates a vendetta
- Franklin Phearson: A tormentor of Harry; tells him about the Cronus Club
- Vincent Rankis: Harry's friend and enemy; attempts to build a quantum mirror to develop a theory of everything
- Virginia: Harry's rescuer and a mass murderer of kalachakras
- Jenny: Harry's wife, to whom he reveals his nature, precipitating a crisis
- Charity Hazelmere: An important member of the Cronus Club who assists Harry

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish this book?
2. Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?
3. Is this book a time travel story? A metaverse story?

4. Do you envy Harry August in any way? If you were destined to live your life over repeatedly, would you see it as a blessing or a curse?
5. How would the story have changed if Harry's lives had been told in chronological order?
6. What did you think of the writing style and world-building?
7. "There is no loss, if you cannot remember what you have lost." Discuss.
8. To what extent do you feel the choices you make in life are determined by the fact you know your existence is finite?
9. What do you think of the Cronus Club's decision to not intervene with world events? Do you think the club has a responsibility to look after normal humans?
10. Would the book's message have been the same if the story been told from the perspective of Vincent?
11. Do you sympathize with Vincent's mission in any way? Can you see why someone would value absolute knowledge over human suffering?
12. Thinking about how Harry and Vincent co-exist, do Harry and the kalachakras need conflict with Vincent and his ilk to give their immortality purpose? Would Harry have an emptier, less exciting existence each time around without Vincent to pursue and oppose?
13. Do you think the vision of the end of the world in *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August* is plausible? Why/why not?
14. Do you think this book serves to tell us that the search for meaning in life is hopeless?
15. The author identifies as non-binary and is autistic. Did you sense any influence in the book from these traits?