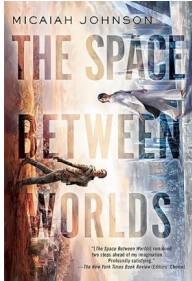




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



The Space Between Worlds
By Micaiah Johnson
Discussed February 2024

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Why or why not?
2. We're often told that the best stories "show and don't tell." This story starts with some major telling as part of the early world building. Did this work for you, and did it feel clunky to you? Why or why not?
3. The author crams a lot of different themes into the story, including issues related to social class, race, sexual orientation, and religion.
 - a) What did you like or not like about how the author handles each topic?
 - b) Do you think the author tried to include too much into the story, or do you think it works? Why or why not?
4. What did you think of how Cara's expression of her sexuality differed in the different worlds, both in the different Earths and in Wiley City vs. Ashtown?
5. Another theme of the book is the importance of choice in determining the future, as well as the limits of your circumstances and biology (nature vs. nurture vs. choice?).
 - a) How do you think the story handles these elements?
 - b) Do you think some of the differences between worlds are too simplistic, or do you think that they make sense given the circumstances?
6. The story has a number of reveals and reversals. Were you surprised by these? Did they keep you engaged in the story, or did you find them unbelievable or predictable?
7. Cara struggles with her identity and her desire to belong and connect in a number of ways. Did you feel like this was presented well? Why or why not?
 - a) For example, Cara is very aware of all of the details that distinguish Wileyites from Ashtowners, including dress, language, and body language. This gives her an advantage, but there's also a sense that she's always analyzing and never completely relaxing and fitting in (with some important exceptions). Did you feel like this was an accurate representation?

8. Most of the characters are complex and flawed in some way, while some are outright villains. What did you think about how the characters were written and developed during the story?
9. Sometimes, the people Cara relied on most made morally questionable or outright bad choices, but for many different reasons (e.g., protecting someone, survival, money and power).
 - a) What did you think of her reactions to these choices, and how did you react to the different characters based on their choices?
10. One thing that sci-fi authors often struggle with is the balance between writing engaging, believable characters and exploring a great idea with strong worldbuilding. How well do you think this book balances those two things?
11. What did you think of the ending? Did it feel too easy, or did it feel Cara “earned” her kinda sorta happy ending?
12. How do you think the title reflected the themes of the book?