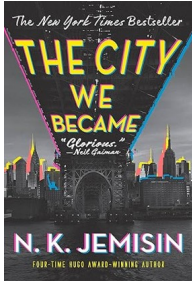




Lambda Sci-Fi

DC Area Gaylaxians



The City We Became
By N. K. Jemisin
Discussed July 2024

Main Characters

- The Primary: the avatar of New York City. A graffiti artist and hustler.
- Manny: the avatar of Manhattan. A PhD student.
- Brooklyn "MC Free" Thomason: the avatar of Brooklyn. A former rapper, lawyer, and current city councilwoman.
- Bronca Siwanoy: the avatar of The Bronx. She manages the Bronx Art Center.
- Padmini Prakash: the avatar of Queens. Gifted in math.
- Aislyn Houlihan: the avatar of Staten Island. Lives with her parents and works at a library.
- Veneza: the avatar of Jersey City. Intern at the Bronx Art Center.
- São Paulo: the avatar of the city he is named for. He is the youngest living city.
- Hong Kong: the avatar of the city he is named for. Friend of São Paulo.
- R'lyeh: an infectious, otherworldly city that wants to take over.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you finish the book? Did you enjoy the book?
2. Have you been to New York City or any of the others? How did you find their characterization?
3. How did you find the variety of narrators?
4. What did you think about way the characters fought?
5. What did you think of the LGBTQ+ characters?
6. What do think about the historical struggle between the cities and Raya?

7. What do you think about Island's motivations and interactions?
8. What do you think about the unanswered questions?
9. Have you read any other works this author? How did this compare?
10. How did you find the ending?

Selected Further Reading

“Great Cities” (the series in which this novel takes place):

- The World We Make (2022)

“Broken Earth” Series (the first trilogy where all three books won the Best Novel Hugo Award):

- The Fifth Seasons (2015)
- The Obelisk Gate (2016)
- The Stone Sky (2017)

“The Inheritance Trilogy” Series:

- The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms (2010)
- The Broken Kingdoms (2010)
- The Kingdom of Gods (2011)