Pandora's Rising

The Last Son

BOOK CLUB KIT



The discussion questions cover the whole book, including the ending.
Hand them out after everyone has finished reading.

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PRESS

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pandora's Rising: The Last Son

He was never supposed to exist.
She was never supposed to look.

In a world that erased men from its future, one was born in secret—hidden, protected, and raised on a single rule: never be seen.

Then she found him.

She was never supposed to cross the tree line, or ask the questions no one else dared. And she was the last person in the world he could afford to trust.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

> *This book was written to be a mirror. You may finish it certain of what it's about, and find the person beside you just as certain of the opposite. That disagreement is worth exploring. That's the point. The questions below have no prescribed answers. They're only meant to start the conversation.*
>
> — G. FOX

ABOUT G. FOX

G. Fox is a pen name.

You may wonder who is behind it—whether they are a man or a woman, and which side they are on. Those questions are the reason this book exists.

Read it, and decide what you think. Then find someone who disagrees with you, and ask them why.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Twenty-two questions, no right answers

ON CHOICE

1 The Offering was presented as a choice: hold out your wrists and be kept, or be exiled and forgotten. Was it a choice? If you say no, what would have made it one?

2 Chris was handed a switch and every reason to use it. Diana was handed a mother and every reason to obey her. Both refused. Which refusal cost more?

3 Miguel gave up everything he was in exchange for what he wanted, and got precisely what he bargained for. Is he a traitor, a survivor, or the only person in the book who read the situation correctly?

4 Leo teaches his son that wanting is nature and ruling the wanting is character. Is that true of everyone in this book, or only of some of them?

ON JUDGMENT

5 Helena was willing to let a great many people be endangered to strengthen what she had built. Chris was willing to bring a building down on the same crowd. Is there a meaningful difference between them? Where exactly is it?

6 Johanna knew what was happening and stayed inside it for years. Leo knew what was happening and left. Which of them did more good? Which would you have been?

7 Angela risked returning to Leo in secret. Diana risked crossing the tree line to discover the truth. Both found something worth protecting, but their choices also endangered others. When does the right to choose your own life conflict with your responsibility to the people who may pay the price?

8 Mario gave his whole life to one person. Diana calls that kind of devotion the most anyone can give another human being. Zander asks why anyone would choose it. Which of them is right?

9 Leo stops Chris by arguing that the bombing would prove everything the Capital ever said about men. Is that a good reason not to do something? Is there such a thing as a wrong reason to do the right thing?

ON WHAT PEOPLE OWE EACH OTHER

10 Diana was raised to believe that showing what you feel hands another person a weapon. Zander was raised to believe the opposite. Which of them was better equipped for the world they actually lived in?

11 Eleven men crossed into the Capital to bring their wives home, and their wives did not know them. What is left to be owed when the person you owed it to no longer exists?

12 After their attempt to rescue their wives failed, the men withdrew from the world that had rejected them. Yet they raised Zander with knowledge, skills, and love that the Capital could not erase. Was that resistance, retreat, or both? Must an act be intended to change the world to count as defiance?

13 Mario opened Diana's car door every morning of her life and she never learned where he was born. Whose failure was that? Does your answer change depending on what she could have done about it?

ON THE STORY THEY WERE TOLD

14 Zander and Diana were each raised on an account of what the other kind of person was. Both accounts contained some truth. What do you do with a belief that turns out to be partly right?

15 Helena believed she was building something better, and by her own measures she was. What is the test for whether someone is right about that?

16 The narrator says radical change arrives as a series of decisions, each one defensible on its own, made by people who believe they are solving a problem. Is anyone in this book acting unreasonably from their own perspective?

ON THE ENDING

17 Johanna promises the whole truth, but the broadcast exposes Zander's suffering to the world without giving him a choice. Can the public be owed a truth that an individual has the right to keep private?

18 When the building comes down, the crowd does not agree with itself. Was the demolition the right thing to do? Who in that crowd do you think was right?

19 Angela's words end the book: build something better than what we left you. Better according to whom? Who decides?

20 The pendulum comes to rest at the center. Is something at rest at peace, or only between motions?

CLOSING QUESTIONS, FOR THE BRAVE

21 Who was the villain of this book? Sit with your answer. Then consider that another reader closed the same cover, named someone else with total conviction, and the text supports them.

22 If you handed this book to the person you most disagree with, would you expect them to come back having read a different book than you did? What would it mean if they hadn't?

FOR YOUR MEETING

Three ways to run the night

Name the villain first. Before anyone talks, each person writes down who they think the villain was and folds the paper. Read them out together, then open with question 21.

Argue the other side. Pick the reading of the book you disagree with most, and spend five minutes making the best case for it. The book was written so that both cases can be made.

Open the box. Pandora runs through the whole story. Ask the room what each character's box was, what they let out, and whether it should have stayed shut.

> ASK G. FOX
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> Send your club's questions to contact@vedicipress.com. G. Fox will answer as many as possible. The answers will be honest. The author's identity stays off the table.

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