

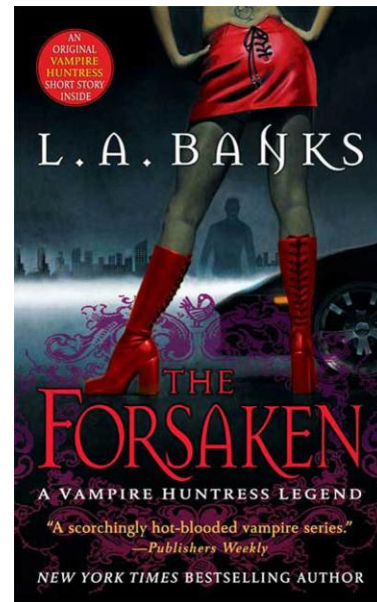
READING GROUP GUIDE

The Forsaken

By L.A. Banks

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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Forsaken* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Forsaken*.

About the Book

The Chairman of the Vampire Council is dead, and Lilith, the consort of the Unnamed One, and the Unnamed One himself are out for revenge against Damali Richards, the Vampire Huntress, and her lover, Carlos Rivera. A ruthless and carefully planned strategy---one that not even Damali will anticipate---has been developed. There is only one entity who can best Damali, send Carlos packing, and put the Guardian team at mortal risk. This powerful being was once banished into a forsaken land and possesses everything that would bring a Neteru to his or her knees. This time the fight is not so clear-cut, and it is not only Damali's soul in the balance but her body and heart as well.

About the Author

L. A. Banks is the author of the Vampire Huntress Legends series. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and a master's in fine arts from Temple University. Banks considers herself a shape-shifter. She has written romance, women's fiction, crime and suspense, and, of course, dark vampire huntress lore. She lives with her daughter and her dog in an undisclosed lair somewhere in Philadelphia.



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Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about Damali's struggle choosing between Carlos and Cain?
2. Ultimately in this saga, each Guardian has a personal hurdle to address or overcome for the good of the group. How necessary and realistic is it to relegate one's own deeply private issues to the background, as each member of the Neteru Guardian team does? In addition, discuss how the Neteru King and Queen Council members were forced to do this in some ways.
3. How is it possible for a person to be both honorable and dishonorable, like Cain? Discuss other real-life people who have acted both honorably and dishonorably.
4. Discuss Marlene and Carlos's battle before the team—her “purge process” of getting to Carlos's inner core and taking him to the rock. Were there other ways for her to identify with him? What has been the best way when you have had to do it?
5. What do you think about Juanita's role in all of this and her ultimate discovery?
6. What lessons did both Neterus learn this time that could be helpful in the future?
7. What effects do you think Damali's newfound powers will have in future battles?
8. What do you think the new paradigm between Carlos and Damali will do to other members of the team?
9. Which “newbie” Guardian(s) do you think will step up and begin to evolve into their powers next? (How?)
10. What new threat do you envision attacking the team? How will evil come for them next?
11. With this new twist in Damali and Carlos's relationship, what role might The Covenant play? What role do you envision for the covenant in Carlos's friendship with Yonnie, a vampire?
12. What temptations could easily befall the members of the Guardian squad in the same way both Damali and Carlos had been “tested” over the years? Who do you think is most at risk?

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