

HUNTED BY THE SKY

DISCUSSION GUIDE



ABOUT THE BOOK

Gul has spent her life running. She has a star-shaped birthmark on her arm, and in the kingdom of Ambar, girls with such birthmarks have been disappearing for years. She wants only one thing: revenge.

Cavas lives in the tenements, and he's just about ready to sign his life over to the king's army. But sparks fly when he meets a mysterious girl—Gul—in the capital's bazaar, and as the chemistry between them undeniably grows, he becomes entangled in a mission of vengeance.

Dangerous circumstances have brought Gul and Cavas together at the king's domain in Ambar Fort . . . a world with secrets that are deadlier than their own.

AUTHOR BIO

TANAZ BHATHENA is the author of *The Beauty of the Moment*, as well as the critically acclaimed *A Girl Like That*, which received two starred reviews and was named a Best Book of the Year by *Seventeen*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The Times of India*, among others. Bhathena lives in Mississauga, Ontario, with her family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Svapnalok, there is a clear class divide between magi and non-magi. Discuss the challenges that non-magi face versus those that magi face. What roles do each of the groups play in this society? Why do you think Raja Lohar wants non-magi to be lesser? How is this method of oppression similar to historical events in our world?
2. After the Moon Festival, Cavas discovers that Gul is magi and he feels betrayed. As a non-magi, why do you think Cavas has difficulty seeing Gul for who she is after he discovers she doesn't live in the tenements?
3. Gul's motivation throughout the book focuses heavily on avenging her parents' deaths. How would you describe her goals? Are they considered selfish?
4. Why does Gul struggle to accept the prophecy and the leadership role she must play in the rebellion?
5. Mythology has a strong cultural influence in this book. Each of the four kingdoms of Svapnalok have their own chosen god, goddess, or prophet. In what ways do the characters of this world connect to their religious leaders? How do all the different faiths play a role in the future of the kingdom of Ambar?
6. Compare Gul and Cavas. How do their goals bring them together and how do they separate them?
7. When Cavas sees an indentured laborer suffering from the Scorpion's cruelty, he thinks to himself, "Better him than me." Do you agree with his reasoning? How does this survival instinct enforce the corrupt kingdom's cycle of oppression?
8. Gul gets frustrated with Amira's harsh and unrelenting methods of training. Why does she want Amira to explain how to access her powers? What lesson is Amira trying to teach when she insists that Gul learn to access her powers from her experience?
9. Both Cavas and Gul have to deal with the grief of having their parents die. How do their family dynamics change after losing their parents? What circumstances would you say define someone as being part of our family?
10. At the Flesh Market, people have the choice to sell themselves as an indentured servant to the palace or to other buyers. What are some of the reasons people choose to sell themselves? Do you think selling themselves is actually a choice for Ambar's citizens? What is the significance of people being sold alongside animals?
11. What is the purpose of the labor camps that Kali and Amira were held captive in for so long? What similarities and differences do the camps share with actual historical events?

