

INTO THE CROOKED PLACE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The streets of Creije are for the deadly and the dreamers, and four crooks in particular know just how much magic they need up their sleeve to survive.

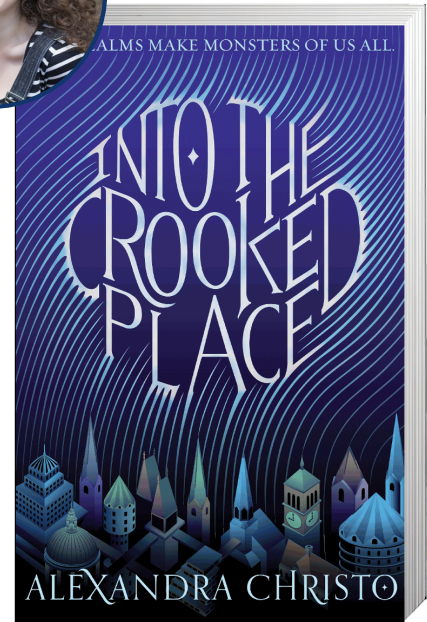
Tavia, a busker ready to pack up her dark-magic wares and turn her back on Creije for good. She'll do anything to put her crimes behind her.

Wesley, the closest thing Creije has to a gangster. After growing up on streets hungry enough to swallow the weak whole, he won't stop until he has brought the entire realm to kneel before him.

Karam, a warrior who spends her days watching over the city's worst criminals and her nights in the fighting rings, making a deadly name for herself.

And Saxony, a resistance fighter hiding from the very people who destroyed her family, and willing to do whatever it takes to get her revenge.

Everything in their lives is going to plan, until Tavia makes a crucial mistake: she delivers a vial of dark magic—a weapon she didn't know she had—to someone she cares about, sparking the greatest conflict in decades. Now these four magical outsiders must come together to save their home and the world, before it's too late. But with enemies at all sides, they can trust nobody. Least of all each other.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ALEXANDRA CHRISTO decided to write books when she was four and her teacher told her she couldn't be a fairy. When she's not busy making up stories, she can be found organizing food crawls over London and binge-watching Korean dramas. Alexandra has a BA in Creative Writing and currently lives in England with an abundance of cacti (because they're the only plants she can keep alive). She is also the author of TO KILL A KINGDOM.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. INTO THE CROOKED PLACE alternates between the perspectives of multiple characters. How did this affect your reading of the book? Which character's point of view was your favorite?
2. Karam's parents believe in peace above everything else in the world, but Karam has dedicated her life to being a warrior. Why do you think they disagree, and who do you think is right?
3. Tavia feels guilty about the things she's had to do as a busker, such as selling dangerous charms to unsuspecting customers. Do you think her past actions are forgivable and why?
4. Almost everyone in the book has dealt with the death of a loved one. Reflect on how INTO THE CROOKED PLACE handles grief and its relationship to revenge. How do the different characters manage their grief?
5. Wesley tells the voice in his head, "You don't know what it's like to create a family from nothing." What role does family play in the story? How do these characters create their own families?
6. When they must face their biggest regrets to reach Ashwood, Arjun tells the others that he had to confront his pride, but he doesn't elaborate any further. What do you think Arjun saw during his test?
7. Did you expect the twist with Saxony's sister Zekia? Why do you think Zekia defected to Ashwood's side? And how do you think this will affect Saxony's relationship with her Amja?
8. Tavia has long dreamed about escaping Creije, but by the end of the book she's not so sure. Do you think Tavia will stay in Creije if they can ever defeat Ashwood?
9. At the end of the book, it's revealed that Wesley is actually a Crafter whose powers have been hidden by blood magic. Why do you think his identity was kept a secret for so long?
10. What do you think Zekia and Ashwood will do with Wesley now that they have him as their captive?

