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WE HUNT THE FLAME by Hafsa Faizal



ABOUT THE BOOK

People lived because she killed. People died because he lived.

Zafira is the Hunter, disguising herself as a man when she braves the cursed forest of the Arz to feed her people. Nasir is the Prince of Death, assassinating those foolish enough to defy his autocratic father, the sultan. If Zafira was exposed as a girl, all of her achievements would be rejected; if Nasir displayed his compassion, his father would punish him in the most brutal of ways. Both Zafira and Nasir are legends in the kingdom of Arawiya—but neither wants to be.

War is brewing, and the Arz sweeps closer with each passing day, engulfing the land in shadow. When Zafira embarks on a quest to uncover a lost artifact that can restore magic to her suffering world and stop the Arz, Nasir is sent by the sultan on a similar mission: retrieve the artifact and kill the Hunter. But an ancient evil stirs as their journey unfolds—and the prize they seek may pose a threat greater than either can imagine.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Zafira is a legendary hunter in her land, but she keeps her true identity secret for fear that her achievements would be twisted since she is a woman. Was Zafira right to hide herself? What did she gain or lose by doing so?
2. Nasir's father teaches him early on that love and compassion are weaknesses. How does Nasir change? Is there weakness or strength in love and compassion?
3. Both Nasir and Zafira have complicated relationships with their parents. What drives these complicated relationships?
4. How does loss alter and shape the young characters in WE HUNT THE FLAME ?
5. Zafira is determined to go on a quest to bring magic back in order to save her people even at the cost of her own life. Her loved ones don't believe that the quest is worth her life. Do you agree or disagree? When is it worth the sacrifice?
6. How do Zafira's and Nasir's relationships with their companions both complement and challenge them while on their quests? How would you characterize Zafira's relationship with Deen, or Nasir's relationship with Altair?
7. Deen says after his sister's marriage: "Once you're bound to another, you change. That for the happiness of the one you love, and for your own, you change without knowing it." Is this statement true? Does love change the characters in the book? If so, how?
8. Baba taught Zafira that knowledge empowered him against his persecutors. How does the power of knowledge work in this book? Does knowledge empower us? What are the shortcomings of this power?
9. How are the characters in the book seeking redemption? Do they find it? Is redemption possible? Why do we search for it?
10. Kifah says to Zafira, "In this moment, we are two souls, marooned." Zafira posits that in life, "Everyone is stranded everywhere, always." How are each of the characters stranded? Do they find each other? If so, how?

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