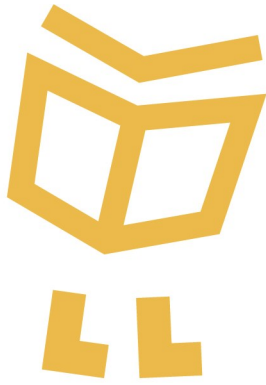


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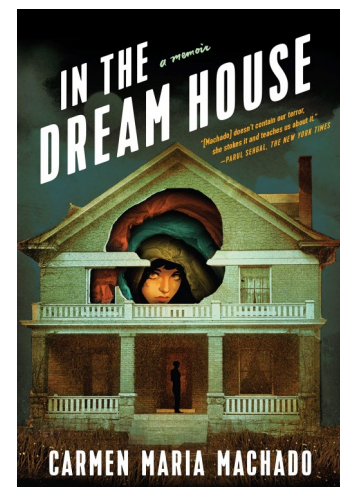


## In the Dream House

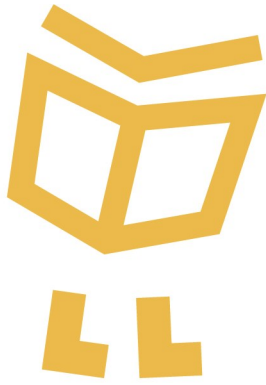
Carmen Maria Machado

### Discussion Questions

1. How does Machado's narrative differ from more traditional memoirs? Did you find her fragmented style effective in telling this story?
2. How does Machado's depiction of abuse reverberate with other depictions you've read, or with real-life instances you know about? Does she do a good job evoking the experience of an abused person?
3. A major theme of this book is the lack of media coverage of abuse in queer relationships. Did any of Machado's points on this topic stand out to you? What are some of the compounded difficulties faced by LGBTQ people in abusive relationships?
4. How did you feel about the way Machado incorporates other literature and pop culture into her personal narrative (the chapter recounting an episode of Star Trek, for instance)? Why do you think Machado chose to do this?
5. Do you feel like you understand Machado's actions and thoughts regarding her relationship? Did this memoir do a good job putting the reader in her head?
6. What role did the other "characters" in this story (friends, family, etc.) play? Did they try to help Carmen when she was in trouble? Did they even know?
7. In the end, what do you think of Carmen's girlfriend? Why does she act the way she does? Does it even matter?
8. Did you find any individual chapters or sections especially impactful? Why?
9. If you've read Machado's other book, *Her Body and Other Parties*, how did this one compare? Which of the books did you like best?



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## About the Author

Carmen Maria Machado is the author of the bestselling memoir *In the Dream House* and the award-winning short story collection *Her Body and Other Parties*. She has been a finalist for the National Book Award and the winner of the Bard Fiction Prize, the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction, the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction, the Brooklyn Public Library Literature Prize, the Shirley Jackson Award, and the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize. In 2018, the New York Times listed *Her Body and Other Parties* as a member of "The New Vanguard," one of "15 remarkable books by women that are shaping the way we read and write fiction in the 21st century." Her essays, fiction, and criticism have appeared in the New Yorker, the New York Times, Granta, Vogue, This American Life, Harper's Bazaar, Tin House, McSweeney's Quarterly Concern, The Believer, Guernica, Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy, Best American Nonrequired Reading, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the Guggenheim Foundation, Yaddo, Hedgebrook, and the Millay Colony for the Arts. She lives in Philadelphia and is the Abrams Artist-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania.

Via the author's website (<https://carmenmariamachado.com/biography>)

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