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The House in the Cerulean Sea

TJ Klune

Discussion Questions

1. As an employee of DICOMY, Linus Baker works under very rigid rules and regulations. He's constantly being monitored, yet he still manages to produce quality work. Why does he push through working under such pressure? And if you were in his shoes, would you be able to work under those conditions?
2. Linus is a very lonely man and prior to investigating the Marsyas Island Orphanage, his only friend and family is his aloof cat Calliope. While building a family and a home becomes important for Linus as the story progresses, why wasn't this a priority in his past? Why is he so isolated as an adult, and do you think this can be attributed to what his home life was like growing up?
3. Whose magical abilities appeal to you most? If you were to choose your own magical powers, what would they be and why?
4. Why is music such a large part of the story? What role does it play in the characters' lives?
5. Each of the characters in this book have different fears to work through and conquer fears. Do you think the characters face their fears in beneficial ways? How do you deal with your fears? Do you feel you can relate to any of the characters' ways of coping?
6. Body size is mentioned quite often throughout the book. Linus always attempts to shrink himself— both literally and figuratively. Can you explain the dichotomy between him being a larger person, yet seeming to take up little or no space? And how does size have an impact on the story overall?
7. The townspeople who live near the Marsyas Island live in fear of the six children in the orphanage. Why do you think that is? Where does prejudice come from? Why do people fear the unknown?
8. At the heart of the novel is the importance of surrounding yourself with people who feel like home and finding a place where you wholeheartedly belong. How do you personally define "home?" What are the essentials?



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About the Author

TJ Klune is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling, Lambda Literary Award-winning author of *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, *The Extraordinaries*, and more. Being queer himself, Klune believes it's important—now more than ever—to have accurate, positive queer representation in stories.

Via Macmillan (<https://us.macmillan.com/author/tjklune>)

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