

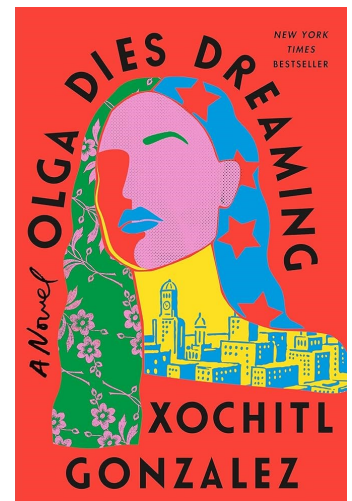
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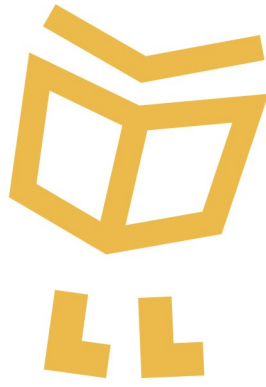
Olga Dies Dreaming Xochitl Gonzalez

Discussion Questions

1. Olga and Prieto are highly motivated, career-focused people who are invested in their communities. In what ways do the siblings' divergent trajectories reflect their different relationship to their hometown of Brooklyn—or to the values of the society around them?
2. Family is an essential thread in this story—from Olga cunningly providing napkins for Mabel's wedding to Prieto rooting Olga on from the sidelines. Which of these moments resonated with you and how you show up for your own family? Why?
3. Mateo enters Olga's life and unapologetically discloses his own backstory. How does their romantic relationship change and influence some of the decisions Olga makes?
4. Evaluate Olga and Prieto's relationship with Blanca. How do their senses of self change as their relationship with their mother evolves throughout the novel?
5. The landfall of Hurricane Maria is crucial to the overarching plot, especially as we witness the lack of U.S. intervention in the aftermath. How does Gonzalez bring the discourse around aid and relief to the forefront of this novel through her characters?
6. How important was it for readers to hear Blanca's voice through her letters to her children? What did the letters reveal about Blanca's decisions when it came to her family? How did they make you feel about her choices?
7. How do the changes to the neighborhood where Olga and Prieto grew up affect them, their friends and family differently? How does it feel unfair? How does Olga reconcile the transformation of her own life with the gentrification around her? How does her experience differ from Mateo's?
8. Both Olga and Prieto are children of the diaspora, but they have different relationships to their communities and to Puerto Rico. Does one approach seem better than the other to you? Is it important to feel connected to one's roots?
9. This novel has a backdrop of multiple weddings. How does class change the role of weddings for the various characters? How is the culture of wedding planning juxtaposed against everything that's at stake for Olga and her family?
10. The characters in this novel have all experienced large traumas. What are some of the healthy and unhealthy ways they have moved past them?



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About the Author

Xochitl Gonzalez is the New York Times bestselling author of *Olga Dies Dreaming*. Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2022 by Time, Kirkus, Boston Globe, Vogue, Bustle, and more, *Olga Dies Dreaming* was a Barnes & Noble Discover Pick, an Indies Introduce Pick, an Indie Next Pick and Amazon's Featured Debut of the month. Gonzalez received her M.F.A. from the Iowa Writers' Workshop where she was an Iowa Arts Fellow and the recipient of the Michener-Copernicus Fellowship for Fiction. She was the winner of the 2019 Disquiet Literary Prize and her work has been published in Bustle, Vogue and The Cut. Gonzalez is a contributor to The Atlantic, where her weekly newsletter "Brooklyn, Everywhere" explores the gentrification of people and places. A native Brooklynite and proud public school graduate, she lives in her hometown of Brooklyn with her dog, Hectah Lavoe.

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