

Dissonance by Erica O'Rourke

A Discussion Guide



1. In *Dissonance*, choices create worlds. What choices have you made that radically changed your life? Have you ever made a small decision that turned out to have enormous consequences?

2. What is the significance of the title – and of dissonance in the book? Can dissonance ever be a good thing? What aspects of your own life feel dissonant, and how do you handle them?

3. If you could go back and redo a single choice you've made, what would it be? How would it alter your life now?

4. Despite his actions, are any of Monty's lessons to Del helpful? Which ones?

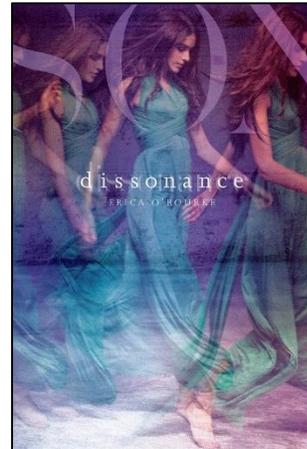
5. Walkers have the ability to visit alternate worlds, but cannot create them. Originals and Echoes can create worlds, but can't see them. What are the benefits and drawbacks to each? Which would you rather be, and why?

6. According to the Consort, cleavings are necessary to protect the Key World. Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. "The term 'accident' is a misnomer. Every consequence, no matter how unexpected, is rooted in a choice." Do you agree with Del's textbook, or not? Use examples from the text and your own life to support your answer.

8. Del and her sister have very different approaches to their Walker duties. When is it more important to follow the rules, and when is it better to be flexible and guided by instinct? Which style appeals more to you?

9. Monty calls Del his "best, brightest girl." How much of his affection for Del is genuine, and how much is manipulation? Does his dementia excuse his actions? Should people who suffer from mental illness be held less responsible for their behavior?



"Some decisions have unimaginable consequences..."