

Discussion Guide: Pure Chocolate by Amber Royer

1. Why do you think Bo feels that she has a chance to succeed when she decides to, “Out-Tyson Tyson?” She’s surrounded by people with more experience and skill at handling tactical situations and chasing fugitives – so what is it about Bo that makes her the protagonist of this story?
2. Why do you think Minda is so surprised that Bo can see Zantites as beautiful? How does this fact play into the themes of the book? Did you see the Zantites as beautiful when reading about how they see each other through heat augmentation?
3. What does the phrase, “Mercy is a gift,” really mean? How do the different characters interpret it? “We’re friends now,” also becomes a running phrase in this book. Why is it important to the theme of the series?
4. Do you feel that the punishment for someone having attempted mind control in this book are justified?
5. How does this compare with other books you’ve read involving insidious alien intelligences?
6. Why is it so dangerous for Chestla to go to Zant? Why does she do it anyway?
7. How did you feel while reading about the graffiti on Brill’s ship? Do you think this scene changed the way Bo sees him?
8. What is so unfair about the Invincible Heart, for Bo and for the other characters exposed to it? How does the fact that Bo has been able to resist taking it again show her immense strength of character?
9. Do you feel that Bo and Brill will eventually find a way to reconcile the way their species age differently? And the other challenges to their relationship? How do you think Bo would handle it if she ever met Brill’s mother in person?
10. What does salt symbolize for the Evevrons? How does this relate to the outcome for Leron – and for his compatriots?

